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The Library World.

A Medium of Intercommunication
for Librarians.

Vol. III.

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The Library World.

Vol. III.

JULY, 1900.

No. 25.

THE NEW LIBRARY BILL.

By W. E. DOUBLEDAY, Librarian, Hampstead Public Libraries.

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IT is one thing to discuss the clauses of a prospective Bill ; but to get that Bill through Parliament is a vastly different affair. It was at the Buxton L. A. Conference, in 1896, that the matter was considered, and now, after four years' working and waiting, we have advanced just so far as to have got through the House of Lords "a Bill intitled an Act to amend the Acts relating to Public Libraries, Museums, and Gymnasiums, and to regulate the liability of managers of Libraries to proceedings for libel." At the present moment this Bill is awaiting an opportunity of coming before the Commons. With this position it must be perfectly familiar, for it was only on account of Lord Avebury's despair at finding no opening for it in the House of Commons that the Association induced Lord Windsor to pilot it through the House of Lords. If the present Parliament lives long enough there is just a chance of the measure being entered upon the statute book ; but, with forecasts of an early dissolution confronting us, and with Mr. Balfour's recent announcement of the Government appropriation of private members' days this session, the prospect is not particularly encouraging. If these slender hopes are not realised, the Bill will be none the forwarder for passing the Upper House ; whilst, if it should be so fortunate as to pass the Commons without further amendment, it would at once pass into law. Lord Balcarras has been good enough to take charge of the Bill in the House of Commons, and as it is well "backed," and has been pruned down by the Standing Committee, and has really nothing of a contentious nature in its provisions, we may reasonably hope that if it once gets a start in the House it will reach a successful finish.

The Bill contains thirteen clauses, of which only the most important need be specified. One of these seeks to remedy the glaring anomaly that, whilst a library authority may frame regulations for the use of its buildings, it is not empowered to make such bye-laws as shall secure their enforcement. The Library Offences Act of 1898 provides for the infliction of penalties in cases of disorderly conduct in English libraries. Scotland is already protected in this particular. The clause under notice extends to Ireland, and, enabling library authorities to make bye-laws, is slightly wider in effect. It has been much changed since entering Parliament, and, from a library point of view, the changes are not for the better.

A few years ago library authorities of two or more urban districts, or of two or more parishes, were empowered to unite together for the support and use of a public library. Thus, St. Pauls joined with St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and the inhabitants of the former parish, contributing their due share towards its maintenance, have the free use of the fine library in St. Martin's Lane. But, had St. Martin's been a boundary parish, it could not have united for such a purpose with a rural parish just over the border-line of London County. Clause four asks for such a conjunction of urban and parochial districts for the purposes of public library work. If this passes it may be a convenient solution of the difficulty of providing branch libraries on the outskirts of boroughs, or even in suburban districts which could not afford to maintain a suitable building without such a system of combination.

Another most important clause arises out of the case of *Martin v. Trustees of the British Museum*. It will be remembered that the Trustees were, a few years ago, sued for damages on account of an alleged libel contained in a book in the British Museum. On that occasion judgment was given in favour of the defendants, but there is no sufficient reason to suppose that a similar verdict would be returned if an ordinary public library were sued. But, even so, the next worst thing to losing a law-suit is having to fight it. No rate-supported public library could afford to be mulcted in damages; a few hard-won victories would be little less disastrous, and the risk ought not to be allowed. It is the object of the twelfth clause "while amply protecting a libelled party, to relieve library managers from any action or proceedings, unless they wilfully persist in circulating the libellous book after proper notice."

The vexed question of the removal of the penny limit to the library rate does not enter into the Bill, but there are one or two methods of relief, which, however, will affect but a comparatively small number of libraries. One section requires that, when the Acts have been adopted without any limitation by the voters, the local authority shall allot the full product of the penny rate for the support of the library. There is, perhaps, less in this than there appears to be; for although the full amount of the rate might be allotted it would, we imagine, not compel the whole of such a sum to be *spent*. As library commissions are being swept out of existence, and the local authority usually interferes to some extent in library expenditure (or at least reserves the right to do so), this particular clause has lost something by delay. The Association sought to remedy this defect by inserting in the London Government Bill of 1899, a clause providing that the Library Committee of a London Borough Council should be empowered to spend up to the limit of the rate as voted upon by the ratepayers. The effort was not immediately successful, but it may come up again, and with a wider application.

Those urban districts in which a museum is supported out of the library rate will, if the Bill becomes an Act, be enabled to transfer all museum charges from the library account to the general rate. The item would be treated under the Museums and Gymnasiums'

Act of 1891, even although established and hitherto maintained under the Library Acts. This is merely an act of justice, as, unless thus relieved, those towns which established municipal museums earlier than 1891 must continue to pay for their enterprise at the risk of starving the library. It will be remembered that this Act may be adopted by the urban authority and has not to be referred to the ratepayers for decision. It will, perhaps, also be remembered that this same (Museums and Gymnasiums') Act does not apply to London. The new Bill seeks to rectify this defect. If it passes it may possibly be of service to suburban London; but is not likely to affect those districts from which the great metropolitan museums are easily accessible. It is to be regretted that neither the Museums and Gymnasiums' Act nor the new Bill is sufficiently comprehensive to include Art Galleries within its scope. Art Galleries are contemplated by the Libraries' Acts; but whilst they would have to be supported by the library rate, and that rate limited to a sum not exceeding one penny in the pound, there is little inducement for library authorities to exploit the field of art.

There are other points in the Bill, but space forbids their notice. It is by no means a great Bill. Some of the clauses to which the Library Association attached the greatest importance have been cut out; and "as amended by the Standing Committee" its value is certainly impaired. Fragment as it is, it is better than nothing. It is worth the having, and we can only hope that it may have the good fortune of a safe and speedy passage through the Lower House.



STUDIES IN LIBRARY PRACTICE.

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I.—THE HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF LIBRARY CHARGING SYSTEMS. CONCLUSION. By JAMES D. BROWN, *Librarian, Clerkenwell Public Libraries, London.*

(Continued from page 118, Vol. II.)

AN editorial intimation to the effect that this series of papers has spread over a long period and ought now to be concluded, compels me to close, somewhat abruptly, my notes on Charging Systems in general, and I must leave for a future occasion the further consideration of Indicators, Reference and Lending Counter methods, Statistics, &c.

OPEN ACCESS.

The chief feature of Public Library Charging which has not been touched upon in these papers is the open form of public access to reference and lending libraries, and I propose, in concluding these somewhat fragmentary articles, to add a few thoughts upon this important subject. It is rather remarkable that whenever the question

of open-access is mentioned, especially as regards lending libraries, the average English librarian immediately jumps to the conclusion that his method of charging will be affected. Nothing could be more distant from the truth. There is practically no connection between open access as a policy and charging systems of any kind. The direct admission of readers to public library shelves is primarily a question of policy pure and simple, and is independent of any administrative method in particular. While it is the case that most safe-guarded open access libraries have abandoned ledgers and indicators for charging purposes, in favour of cards, there is no reason at all why either of these other methods should not be used if preferred. Open access can be successfully worked with any system of book registration, provided it is effective, and it is, therefore, erroneous to assume that charging and open shelves are interdependent.

Many librarians object to open access in any shape or form, on the ground that, apart from any technical consideration, they do not believe the public can derive benefit from the direct examination of books. These opinions, which are often quite sincere, are generally based upon a plentiful lack of experience, or upon the reports of librarians whose half-hearted open access experiments have turned out unfortunate. The authorities of the British Museum would cover themselves with undying ridicule were they to remove all the books from the reading room shelves because some dishonest reader had stolen a half-crown "Whitaker." Yet, on very similar pretexts, of an equally slight character, several select reference libraries have been closed, to the great inconvenience of readers. Fortunately for the credit of library authorities in the United Kingdom, the Colonies and America, very little of this kind of feeble administration has been witnessed; and it is an undoubted fact that the policy of granting free access to select collections of reference books is yearly becoming more widespread and firmly established. Scarcely any objection has been raised to the plan of admitting readers to the shelves of reference libraries, while the outcry against a similar policy for lending libraries has been loud and prolonged. This is somewhat remarkable, when one considers that the value of the average reference book—to put it on this sordid ground—is so much in excess of its humbler lending fellow, while the readers who use such libraries are not, as a rule, selected or guaranteed in any way. It does seem a very anomalous condition of affairs that library authorities should be willing to allow valuable encyclopædias, dictionaries, atlases, magazines, directories, and expensive technical works, to be freely handled by any passer-by who cares to enter, while all the reputable ratepayers and residents of the town, even after they are carefully sifted out and make declaration of their willingness to guarantee each other, should be denied a similar privilege in the comparatively valueless lending department. I am not prepared to give any reason for this seemingly inverted notion of Public Library administration, beyond the perfectly obvious one that certain persons who have conceived a prejudice against open access in lending libraries, are not above the common failing, which afflicts most

minds so affected, of illogically adopting with enthusiasm the strongest form of the very principle to which they are opposed! It requires no great gift of prophecy to foresee that opposition which blows hot and cold in this erratic way can only have the effect of building up and consolidating the very system it seeks to condemn. Judging by present progress it is perfectly safe to assume that other five years will see every British Public Library of any importance duly equipped with its open-shelf reference department.

Turning now to the lending department. Here the opposition has been very strong, but not unhealthy. By drawing attention in a widespread fashion, to a piece of library policy which otherwise would have languished for lack of proper advertising, open access opponents have unconsciously rendered an enormous service to the cause. Their cheerful denunciations have had the direct effect of inducing at least eight library authorities to adopt open access, and their kindly criticisms have contributed something towards the improvement of the methods associated with the system. Many librarians and committee-men who have obtained their first intimation of the existence of the system from literature directed against it, have been drawn into an investigation of the other side of the question, and, in most cases, have emerged converts to it. Thus is once more demonstrated the necessity and value of opposition to the proper evolution of reform.

While a great deal has been published about the real or imaginary dangers and disadvantages of open access in lending libraries, very little has been said as to its influence on the development of improved library methods. If it was responsible for nothing more than materially assisting to lift library administration out of the stagnant rut into which it was falling, it would be deserving of not a little credit on that score alone. But it has done considerably more, particularly in the direction of improved methods of classification and cataloguing, to stimulate and change many ideas connected with librarianship which were in danger of becoming fixed. The public, for whose benefit all experiments in library management are undertaken, appreciate variety and forward progress much more than many easy-going librarians and assistants suppose. A library which keeps on running along one set groove, year after year, never attempting change or improvement of any sort, is not the kind of institution to achieve much distinction or success, either locally or otherwise. It is just as likely to become a tolerated failure as any business which goes droning along without any effort to attract attention or extend its usefulness. Unfortunately, it is this public side of the question which may, by and bye make itself felt. Librarians and assistants are never tired of lamenting their hard lot and small salaries, but they rarely attribute the hardships, whatever they may be, to the real cause. The limitation of the library rate is popularly supposed to be at the root of all evil, but more often, in my opinion, it is the failure to make libraries interesting both to public and local authorities. It is not enough to organize a library on certain recognized mechanical lines and expect it to run on for ever as a flourishing concern. Anyone without training can do this if certain methods are followed, but if a

library is to prove always attractive and interesting, something beyond the original narrow scheme of foundation is required. Some time ago a well-known American public man expressed the view that the average English librarian was only a kind of superior clerk without technical training, book-knowledge, or initiative of any kind, controlled and limited by the sole ambition to make his office as easy a sinecure as possible, and quite blind to the possibilities of developing library administration along certain scientific lines. He supported his opinion by citing the extraordinary indifference of most English librarians to such an elementary and needful thing as classification; pointed out the mediocre condition of certain Public Libraries he had visited; and mentioned the hostility to open access as a certain proof, either of prejudice or indifference to practical questions. After we deduct a considerable amount of American exaggeration from this, enough remains of truth to give ample ground for reflection. In these days of progress in every direction it will not do for any department of municipal administration to lag behind, particularly one so closely in touch with the people as a Public Library. Unless efforts at improvement are made by the libraries themselves, it is vain to expect more recognition from the public. Previous to the advent of the safe-guarded open access method in 1892-93, library work in nearly every department was drifting into a state of stagnation. But when this system was established, with its accompaniments—close classification, annotated cataloguing, class lists, literary bulletins or magazines, and other advanced features—the whole field of library administration was found to be capable of immense improvements in new directions, and the result is to be seen in fresh activity where formerly all was apathy. The feeling in favour of more freedom to readers is growing every year, and it has been steadily growing since 1893, taking the form of age limitations being removed or modified; greater facilities to the public as regards access to books and the number loaned at one time; and in many other ways which need not be enumerated in a professional journal. So far from being a terrible revolutionary or retrograde movement—it has been called both—lending open access has done nothing worse than direct thought into comparatively unexplored channels, while it has not wrought that moral destruction to the public which has been so often prophesied. Instead, it has proved beyond all doubt that the public is a very fine fellow indeed, who will properly recognize and reward any widespread and liberal effort for his convenience. If, therefore, librarians and their assistants, instead of growling and criticising new departures on theoretical or merely prejudicial grounds, would examine for themselves, and adopt everything within reason designed for the public good, adding or modifying whatever their own ingenuity suggested, the general effect would be an all round improvement in the Public Libraries of the country, which would very soon secure adequate recognition from both local and imperial authorities.

This article is not so much a plea for open access in the abstract, as one for a fair examination of the system on the ground that it has already indirectly influenced important branches of library practice, and

ought not to be lightly passed over as a mere fad. It has not once been condemned by the public who have used it, and most of the librarians who have publicly made adverse comments, were not, because of their lack of experience, the most reliable or best qualified judges.

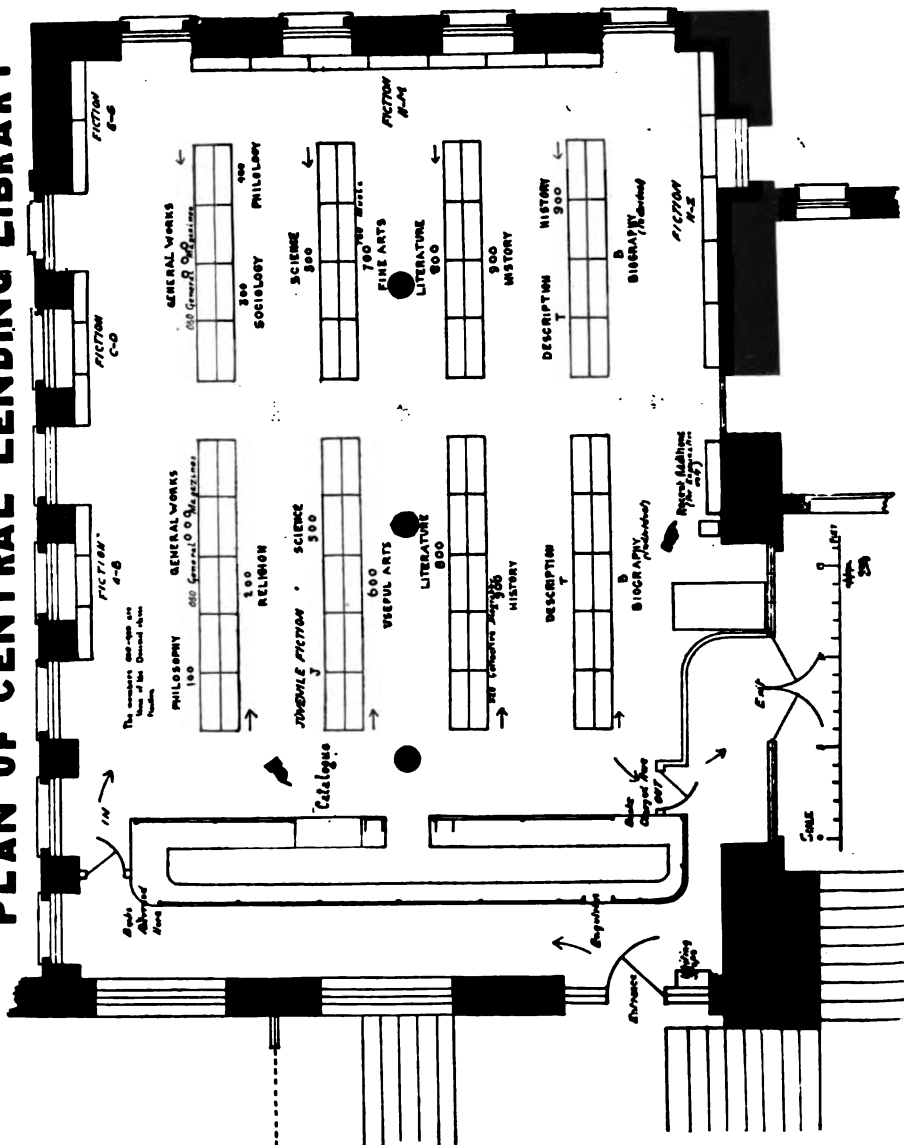
The practical side of safe-guarded open access, which has been unkindly referred to as an elaborate system of bolstering up a crumbling edifice and preventing fraud, is, from a librarian's standpoint, really one of the most interesting studies possible to imagine. Not only does it comprise all problems connected with classification, cataloguing, and charging, but it exhibits them in a new environment, and presents them in quite a fresh aspect. Again, the difficult and important problem of how best to serve the public without too much red-tape solves itself to a very great extent, and even the elements of library planning may be studied under novel conditions in which lurk all kinds of great possibilities.

The ground-plan of an open access lending library is as much an education in book-lore to a mind of ordinary intelligence, as a good map is to a cyclist in topography. Compare the arrangement of a safe-guarded open access library with the happy-go-lucky confusion which reigns in an ordinary restricted library. On the one hand you have a well-classified and attractive library which will interest any book-lover. On the other, you have a huge undigested mass of books, thrust higgledy-piggledy on the shelves, useless to the reader if he could get at them, and only attractive as a kind of warehouse containing something which a possible reader may want if he only knew where to look for it. The plan of the Croydon *Central* Library, will illustrate better than words, claims, or descriptions, the enormous difference between a *Library* and a place where books are kept in bond!

These random reflections by no means exhaust the possibilities of the theme, though they do occupy all the space that can be found for them here. They are put forward more as an introduction to the consideration of open access than as a formal exposition of the merits of the system. It is, after all, only one way towards the improved methods of library administration which most librarians seek, and is but a short step on the road to the ideal plan of circulating and communicating knowledge by books. A method which has lived for over six years, throughout good and bad report—mostly bad, unfortunately—which gets more adherents every year, and is steadily improving on its technical side, is not the one to die because of a little opposition, but is more likely to spread with greater strength as time advances. For these reasons, if professional curiosity is not a sufficient incentive, it behoves every librarian to make a serious study of the possibilities of the system; but in particular, to test it fairly, before committing himself to opinions, based chiefly on inexperience, which he may afterwards rue.



PLAN OF CENTRAL LENDING LIBRARY



REMINISCENCES OF AN OLD FOGEY.

o o o

TO be quite honest, I ought to tell you at the outset that no publisher or editor has asked me to supply him with these reminiscences, neither have my friends sought to persuade me (an easy task in such a case) that a large section of the public would welcome their publication. I have never even been interviewed, and would not think of bare-facedly telling my readers that I believe I will supply a long felt want. When you know more about me you will understand the reason of this. I will merely jot down stray thoughts as they come to me, without any attempt at style, and, I hope, without undue prosiness. If you find me diverging from my story, and keeping you from the point to be got at, you must make allowance for an old man's whims, remembering that he, when a young man, was considered a good conversationalist and first rate company. I would give you my name and address (my address would be unnecessary as you all know me quite well) but as I shall mention names of librarians and others still living, it is better that you should know me only by the name my smartest junior assistant used one day in my hearing. If you could see me, you would say that he had rightly named me, and that much discernment was not required to see that I was a typical old fogey.

I am sitting in my room (my library is one of the oldest and largest in the North of England)—it is called an "office" nowadays—before a table piled with books of all sizes, not the newest fiction, but part of a good old library I picked up at a local sale. There is a good, blazing fire, and when I look around the shelves, the parched leather faces of some of my choicest books seem to take a genial expression which grows into an oily (as in their youth) smile of friendship. My glance falls upon my hands, and my own skin seems now more like an old parchment than anything else; the lines and wrinkles would need a cunning eye to read their story.

I am sixty-seven years of age next month and a bachelor, and being just as comfortable here in my slippers and skull-cap as I would be in my lodging at Mrs. Pringle's, I stay as a rule until very late in the evening. Besides, after spending twenty-eight years of my life in this room, I feel more at home here than anywhere else. When I sit here reading the *Record* or the *Library World* and see the efforts made nowadays to educate assistants, I wonder whether the librarians of twenty years hence will be really better than those who, like myself, have had to go through a rough and ready schooling, picking up whatever was worth knowing about books, whilst getting a sort of general education as we went along doing our work. I have sometimes been asked by younger men how I became a librarian, and as it will perhaps interest the present-day assistant, I will take the opportunity of showing how very different was the training of a librarian of the old school—to which I have the honour to belong—from that of the present day.

I attended the B—— S—— grammar school until I was seventeen. The master was a fine old scholar and made us give most of our time to Latin and Greek Classics, Ancient History, and English Language and History. On leaving school, my father, who was a second-hand bookseller in Birmingham, took me into his shop. I was rather impatient of his then old-fashioned ways, and one day grew so sick of the drudgery (I had been carefully mending a torn copy of a Sarum Missal all day) that I went off and enlisted as a soldier.

I was sent out to India, and one day while turning over some old books on a stall in the Bazaar at Calcutta, I came across a copy of Wynkyn de Worde's "Fysshynge wyth an angle" and bought it for a trifle. That was the turning point in my career. I sent it home to my father as a Christmas present, and he was so delighted that in his next letter he informed me that he had made arrangements for my leaving the army whenever I felt inclined, and I might also take his business either wholly or as his partner. I was too proud to take immediate advantage of his kindness, but a second year of army life was more than enough for me. I came back to England and assisted my father. From the very first, things seemed different; now I eagerly read sale lists, attended auctions, rummaged old libraries, and compiled catalogues. I became a real bibliomaniac, but my zeal became tempered as I found how easy it was to make mistakes through inexperience. The knowledge a second-hand bookseller must possess is only to be gained by living among books, and even the most careful may make a slip now and then. Just the other day when looking into J——'s window in Sloane Street, I saw a second-hand copy of a current book published at 3/6 (from its exterior it might have been 10/6) marked: "Cheap, 6/6"!

I continued with my father for thirteen years, when a terrible calamity occurred. My father had an old-fashioned prejudice against insurance, and no amount of argument could alter this foolish whim. One day we made some heavy purchases at S-t-h-b-'s, and the books were delivered on the day following the sale. The next night (Saturday) we left the shop at 9 o'clock and had only been gone an hour when a messenger came to tell us that our shop was nearly burned down. Everything was lost and we were practically penniless. Whether it was the loss of his treasures or the financial misfortune, I do not know, but my father did not survive long; he, however, had the satisfaction of knowing that every penny he owed was paid.

Just then a subscription library was opened in the town, and the committee appointed me librarian, at a salary of £130 a year, with commission, which generally amounted to £30. The duties and experience in such a library are quite different from the public library. To begin with, the committee, as a whole, consists of men selected on account of their known taste for literature and knowledge of books. The librarian as a rule sits at a table until he is wanted by some reader, who, after browsing at will for an hour, decides to take two or three books and perhaps a review or magazine. There is no counter or indicator to divorce the librarian from the borrowers. He becomes a

sort of general catalogue, literary guide, encyclopædia, atlas, &c. He has splendid opportunities to study the foibles and peculiarities of readers; they let him see their weaknesses—believing them (honest souls) to be strong points. I used to take my meals there, and never sighed for anything better than my chop and porter and Johnson as sauce to it. The readers got to know I didn't like being disturbed during the half-hour my screen was drawn, so they considerably roamed about the shelves until they heard the screen pulled back. Those palmy days have gone, and now a little skip-jack boy issues so many hundred novels in a given number of hours.

Four years later a wealthy merchant offered to build and furnish a splendid library if the town would adopt the Free Libraries' Acts. The offer was too handsome to be rejected, and when the new library was nearly ready, the subscription library was handed over to the town. I was unanimously appointed librarian, and, I thank God that, although I have had ups and downs with my committee (there is only one member of the original committee left) I believe there is not a single ratepayer dissatisfied with the town library or the work of the town librarian.

(*To be continued.*)



THE STOCK REGISTER.

By ERNEST A. SAVAGE, *Sub-Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries.*

o o o

THE advantages attaching to the use of one number only for purposes of accession and charging have been sufficiently well recognised to make it unnecessary to enumerate them again here. But before the advantages can be secured a question of some difficulty must be answered. Is one to give a replaced book the same number as the original, or to allot a new accession number? If the books have charging as well as accession numbers the latter method is undoubtedly the best. It has the merit of simplicity. Usually a second book for the registration of volumes withdrawn is used in connection with this. To obtain the net stock, the total number of entries in the withdrawals register is subtracted from the gross stock as represented by the last number in the accession book. But when the accession numbers are used for charging purposes, difficulties and additional work result. It could not be followed at all where an indicator is employed; while with a card charging system it would be necessary, when a batch of books was replaced, to re-write the book cards, alter the number in the shelf register on the card of your catalogue, and in any other record in which the accession number may

appear. Life in a library is too short for that sort of thing. But if we use the original accession numbers a difficulty of equal importance arises. As a rule, all stock books, in addition to the library numbers, give the date of publication, the publisher, place of publication, size, price, style of binding, and source. When the original entry is made these particulars are rigidly set down, or it is generally regarded as right and proper that they should be. But in nearly every case, some or all of them must be altered on the replacement of a book if the register is to contain a true description of each volume in the library. The date of publication is nearly always later; a work originally in two volumes may be re-issued in one; the price is often lower; not unfrequently another firm publishes the book; and the source is most probably quite different. Commence to make alterations in the register and there is an end to tidiness and accuracy. Why, then, cannot the particulars which make alterations necessary be wholly discarded? Are they of sufficient utility to warrant the pains bestowed on their registration under any method of accessioning? Does one refer to the accession register for the date of publication? If a book is replaced is it not easier to write an order or obtain the price from "Current Literature," or Low's "English Catalogue"? How often do we require to know the source of a volume? So very seldom that the consumption of time in referring to copies of orders, and the donation book, is not worth considering. It is gross heresy, of course, to speak in this disrespectful way of accession details so dear to many librarians; but there must be many such small heresies before the *coup de grace* is given to conservatism in our profession. If these items are discarded it is no longer difficult to maintain an accurate record of the stock in a perfectly neat manner. I suggest the ruling for a stock register, given below.

It is advisable in this case to enter the number of volumes in the classification columns in pencil. When a book is replaced stamp or write the date of replacement in the column provided, and rub out the pencil number. To arrive at the net stock it is only necessary to cast up the pencil numbers remaining and subtract this total from the total accessions. By this method, even after the registers have been in use for ten years, it would only be the work of fifteen minutes to arrive at the classified stock. And there are other minor advantages. When it is desired to give a two or three volume work the same number, one only need write the number of volumes in the classification columns. One number can also be allotted to all the copies of a work if such a practice is preferred.

The numbers in the classification columns are from Dewey, with two additional classes: Fiction and Juvenile Fiction. In the case of a library employing some other classification, the significant letters may be substituted for the Dewey numbers. At the foot of each page will appear the classified total of stock to that point. This total is carried forward.

For the withdrawals register the undernoted ruling might be adopted:

RULING OF WITHDRAWALS REGISTER.

CLASSIFICATION.																		
Access. No.	Date of Access.	Class No.	Author.	Title.														
					0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	F	f	F	
	1900			Bro. forward														
1,501 a b d	May 26	F	Braddon, E. M.	Vixen														3
1,502	"	894	Morley, J.	Miscellanies														2
1,503	June 1	586	Tait, F. G.	Heat									1					

[illegible]

SEQUEL STORIES.

By THOMAS ALDRED, *Librarian, St. George-the-Martyr Public Library, London.* (Continued.)

COLERIDGE, C. R.
Green girls of Greythorpe
Fifty pounds

COOLIDGE, S. (S. C. Woolsey). KATY
BOOKS :—

What Katy did
What Katy did at school
What Katy did next
Clover
In the high valley

COOPER, J. F. LEATHER STOCKING
tales :—

Deerslayer
Last of the Mohicans
Pathfinder
Pioneers
Prairie

LITTLEPAGE MANUSCRIPTS :—

Satanstoe
Chainbearer
Redskins

Homeward bound
Home as found

Afloat and Ashore
Miles Wallingford

Cooper's works may be also classified
as follows :—

HISTORICAL NOVELS :—

Mercedes of Castile
The Heidenmauer
The bravo

NOVELS

The headsman
Precaution
The Monikins
Oak openings
Ways of the hour

SEA TALES.

The pilot
The red rover
The water-witch
The two admirals
Wing-and-Wing
Afloat and Ashore
Miles Wallingford
The Crater (*Same as* Mark's reef)
Jack Tier
The sea lions
Homeward bound
Home as found

TALES OF THE INDIAN WARS AND OF
THE REVOLUTION.

Wept of Wish-ton-Wish (*Same as*
The Borderers)
Wyandotté
The spy
Lionel Lincoln

CRAKE, A. D. CHRONICLES OF
ÆSCUNDUNE :—

Edwy the Fair
Alfgar the Dane
The rival heirs

CRAWFORD, F. M. SARACINESCA
series :—

Saracinesca
Sant' Ilario
Don Orsino
Corleone

Katherine Lauderdale
The Ralstons

A parody of *Mr. Isaacs* was published
under the title of *Mr. Jacobs* [by A.
Bates].

CROCKETT, S. R.

A leading literary paper says : *The
Standard* bearer is to some extent a
sequel to *Lochinvar* and *Men of the
Moss-hags*.

The Red Axe
Joan of the Sword Hand

CURLING, H.

Frank Beresford
The miser lord

DAUDET, A. MODERN DON QUIXOTE
series :—

Tartarin of Tarascon
Tartarin on the Alps
Port Tarascon

DAVIS, R. H.

Van Bibber and others
Gallagher

DICKENS, C. MYSTERY OF EDWIN
DROOD [unfinished]

This story was completed by H.
Morford and others, and published
under the title of *John Jasper's
secret*. Another completion was
worked out by G. Vase with the title
A great mystery solved.

PICKWICK PAPERS

G. W. M. Reynold's Pickwick abroad purports to be further adventures of the chairman of the Pickwick Club.

DONOVAN, DICK (J. E. Muddock).

In nearly all the detective stories written by this author, Dick Donovan is the detective who solves mysteries, etc.

DOYLE, A. C. SHERLOCK HOLMES series:—

A study in scarlet
The sign of four
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes
Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes

DUMAS, A. D'ARTAGNAN ROMANCES:—

Three musketeers (*Same as* Three guardsmen)
Twenty years after
Vicomte de Bragelonne
Son of Porthos

Bragelonne, the son of Athos. The iron mask. Louis de la Vallière. These three books are reprints of portions of *Vicomte de Bragelonne*.

MARIE ANTOINETTE ROMANCES:—

Memoirs of a physician
Queen's necklace
Taking the Bastille (*Same as* ~~Age~~ *Pitou and Six years later*)
Countess de Charny
Chevalier de Maison Rouge (*Same as* *The chevalier*)

NAPOLEON ROMANCES:—

The first republic (*Same as* *Whites and the blues*)
Companions of Jehu
The last Vendée (*Same as* *She-wolves of Machecoul*)

REGENCY ROMANCES:—

Conspirators (*Same as* *Chevalier d'Harmental*)
Regent's daughter

VALOIS ROMANCES:—

Marguerite de Valois
Chicot the Jester (*Same as* *La Dame de Monsoreau and Diana of Meridor*)

Forty-five guardsmen (*Same as* *The forty-five*)

Another Series

Page of the Duke of Savoy (*Same as* *The duke's page*)
Two Dianas

Count of Monte Cristo

An anonymous writer has provided a sequel to this work in *Edmond Dantes*.

DUNBOYNE, LADY

Elsie's summer at Malvern
A sunbeam's influence

DUNCAN, SARA J. (now Mrs. Cotes)

An American girl in London
Voyage of consolation

DUNTON, T. WATTS-

Aylwin

*Coming of love (poems)

*This work although published before Aylwin is, in a sense, the sequel.

EDEN, C. H.

At sea with Drake
Name of sequel wanted

EILOART, Mrs. E.

Ernie Elton, the lazy boy
Ernie Elton at school
Ernie Elton at home and school

ELIOT, GEORGE (Mrs. Cross, nee M. A. Evans)

An anonymous writer has written a sequel to *Daniel Deronda* under the title of *Gwendolen*.

ELLIS, E. S. BOONE AND KENTON series:—

Shod with silence
Phantom of the river
In the days of the pioneers

BOY PIONEER series:—

Ned in the block-house
Ned in the woods
Ned on the river

BRAVE AND HONEST series:—

Brave Tom
Honest Ned
Righting the wrong

DEERFOOT series:—

Hunters of the Ozark
Camp in the mountains
Young ranchers

GREAT RIVER series:—

Down the Mississippi
Up the Tapajos
Lost in the wilds

LOG CABIN series:—

Lost trail
Camp-fire and wigwam
Footprints in the forest

NORTHWEST series:—

Strange craft and its wonderful voyage
Cowmen and rustlers
Two boys in Wyoming

- RIVER AND WILDERNESS series:—
 River fugitives
 Wilderness fugitives
 Lano-Wingo, the Mohawk
- THROUGH ON TIME series:—
 Jack Midwood
 Young conductor
- WILD WOOD series:—
 Through forest and fire
 On the trail of the moose
 Across Texas
- WYOMING VALLEY series:—
 Wyoming
 Storm mountain
 Cabin in the clearing
- ERCKMANN, E. and CHATRIAN, A.
 STORY OF A PEASANT:—
 States General
 Country in danger
 Year one of the republic
 Citizen Bonaparte
- CONSCRIPT
 Waterloo
- FINLEY M. ELSIE BOOKS:—
 Elsie Dinsmore
 Holidays at Roselands
 Elsie's girlhood
 Elsie's womanhood
 Elsie's motherhood
 Elsie's children
 Elsie's widowhood
 Grandmother Elsie
 Elsie's new relations
 Elsie at Nantucket
 Two Elsie
 Elsie's kith and kin
 Elsie's friends at Woodburn
 Christmas with Grandma Elsie
 Elsie and the Raymonds
 Elsie yachting with the Raymonds
 Elsie's vacation and after events
 Elsie at Viamede
 Elsie at Ion
 Elsie at the World's Fair
 Elsie's journey on inland waters
 Elsie at home
- MILDRED BOOKS:—
 Mildred Keith
 Mildred at Roselands
 Mildred and Elsie
 Mildred's married life
 Mildred at home
 Mildred's boys and girls
 Mildred's new daughter
- An old-fashioned boy
 Our Fred
- FITZGERALD, P.
 Bella Donna
 Jenny Bell
 Seventy-five Brooke Street
- FREDERICK, H.
 Seth's brother's wife
 The Lawton girl
- FRITH, H.
 Captains of cadets
 Log of the *Bombastes*
- GABORIAU, E.
 Particulars required of the order the
 stories should be read.
- GOETHE, J. W. von
 Wilhelm Meister's apprenticeship
 Wilhelm Meister's travels
- GIBBONS, M. S.
 "We donkeys" in Devon
 "We donkeys" in Dartmoor
- GORE, Mrs. C. G.
 Cecil, or the adventures of a
 coxcomb
 Cecil; a peer
- GOULDING, F. R.
 Sapelo
 Macoochee
 Sal-o-Quah
- GRAND, SARAH
 Ideala
 Heavenly twins
- GRAS, F.
 The Reds of the Midi
 The Terror
 The White Terror
- GRAY, W. T.
 The bad boy's diary
 The bad boy abroad
- GREEN, E. E.
 Maud Kingslake's collect
 Cuthbert Coningsby
- GREENWELL, D.
 Two friends
 Colloquia Crucis
- GRIER, S. C. (H. Greig)
 An uncrowned king
 A crowned queen
 Kings of the East
- GUNTER, A. C.
 Princess of Paris
 The king's stockbroker
- Susan Turnbull
 Ballyho Pey

HAGGARD, H. R. King Solomon's mines Allan Quatermain Allan's wife	HART, BRET. Jack Hamlin series:— Waif of the plains Susy Clarence Three partners <i>Further information desired—"Jack Hamlin" appears in other books.</i>
HARRIS, J. C. ("Uncle Remus") BRER RABBIT series:— (More complete and accurate information desired). Little Mr. Thimblefinger Mr. Rabbit at home The story of Aaron Aaron at the Wildwoods Plantation pageants	HAVERFIELD, E. L. Our vow Blind loyalty HAYES, F. W. A Kent Squire Further adventures of a Kent Squire

(To be continued.)



LOCAL RECORDS.

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AMONGST other replies which came to hand too late for insertion in our article in last month's *Library World* (pp. 313 *et seq.*) we have the following:—

"I am glad to inform you that the Portsmouth Reference Library contains the following local records:—Documents relating to the Foundation of the Chapter of Winchester, A.D. 1541-1547; a collection of Records, &c., relating to the Hundred and Manor of Crondal; Charters and Documents relating to Selborne and its Priory; Manor of Manydown, Hampshire: Episcopal Registers of the Diocese of Winchester; Portsmouth Amusements, 1798-1861, *with many other valuable documents*, to which great attention is given (hence the strong room), and every encouragement to the out-of-the-way seeker for local matter.

TWEED D. A. JEWERS,
Central Library, Portsmouth."

"We have a number of deeds, &c., relating to local Families, &c. All such valuables are safely kept in a strong room, attached to the Archæological Museum.

ROBERT NEWSTEAD,
Curator, Chester."

"A large number of deeds, family papers, MSS., letters, maps, &c., are in our custody. The Corporation has also lent Charters, and other Municipal Archives of great local value. I can conceive of no better receptacle for the deposition of ancient records, etc., than a properly equipped Public Library. A knowledge of palæography is not necessary for the *custody* of the deeds, etc., referred to, but it is requisite that the custodian should be in sympathy with the objects of the Treasury Committee, and take an intelligent interest in their preservation.

F. N. JAMES,
Museum and Public Library, Maidstone."

We are glad to note, from numerous communications, a desire on the part of librarians and curators to adapt themselves to the possible addition to their responsibilities; we find also a growing inclination among local authorities to regard the public library as the proper place for deposit of such documents as we have referred to in our previous articles on local records.

THE LIBRARY STAFF.

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THIS DEPARTMENT is conducted for the special, but not exclusive, benefit of the earnest and studious Library Assistant, who is determined to make his or her way in the profession of Librarianship. An effort will be made to cover, in a gradual and complete manner, the whole of the ground occupied by the technical side of the craft, and to enable this to be thoroughly done, brief practical notes of any kind are solicited from assistants or librarians in any sort of library. Ethical disquisitions on deportment, and disagreeable controversial notes are not wanted. Every assistant should make a point of sending at least one note annually, bearing on the daily routine work of a library. Nothing is too trivial or trite to be thoroughly discussed.

EDITED BY A LANCASHIRE LIBRARIAN.

Duplicate Books.

IN all libraries the question of dealing with duplicate books must be considered. They accumulate in different ways. In some cases it is owing to the librarian not having a proper check on his stock of books, or it may be that the library is presented with a copy of a work which it already possesses. In the fiction-class duplicates frequently accumulate, owing to the necessity felt in libraries of having more than one copy of a popular novel; or, again, where there is a subscription department, books become transferred to the ordinary library after a certain period. Be the cause what it may, librarians are very often at a loss to know how to make the best use of the duplicates which accumulate. A proposal was made some time ago which aimed at establishing a scheme whereby librarians could co-operate in exchanging books which they did not possess, giving in exchange works which they already had. For some unknown reason this scheme was allowed to drop, so that our Public Libraries are forced to store many books which could be put to some good use. In nearly every town there are clubs frequented by young men who would welcome a donation, from the Public Library, of duplicate works; the model lodging-house is another place where a few might be sent, and, of course, our hospitals. This paragraph does not aim at proposing a new scheme for the advantageous disposal of duplicates, but to awaken thought among librarians as to the best way to utilize, what, in many of our Public Libraries, is, at present, "dead stock."

Opening New Books.

"How to open a Book," an interesting article by Mr. Cedric Chivers, and one worthy of the attention of every assistant, appears in the June number of *The Library*. How many assistants know how this should be done? Very few, judging by the number of new books one sees in our libraries which have received a "start;" in other words, those which fall open in the same place. The article referred to has ten illustrations and only occupies three pages, and the hints contained in it are so clearly laid down that the youngest assistant may understand.

LIBRARY REPORTS AND CATALOGUES.

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FROM a large accumulation of Annual Reports and Catalogues we select the following as offering points of interest. It is impossible within our limited space to do more than briefly acknowledge the numerous library publications received, much as we should like to do justice to the important items frequently recorded in such documents.

The Heginbottom Free Library, of **Ashton-under-Lyne**, records a decrease in its book issues, amounting to 8,524. A new ticket has been adopted, and free lectures were established, four of which were comparatively unsuccessful, owing, it is thought, to the lack of an illustrative lantern. **Battersea** Public Library shows an increase in its issues from 287,639 to 329,863. Residents over twenty-one years of age may now sign their own vouchers without a separate guarantor. Students' extra tickets have been adopted, and open shelves have been established in the reference department. The Mayer Free Library, **Bebington**, reports an increase in its issue of books, and a decrease in the proportion of fiction. **Bexley** Public Library sends out a type-written report for ten months, showing an increase of 14,836, and a total stock of 2,720. The **Bishopsgate** Institute, London, has issued a report which includes plans and a list of 2,000 prints of old London. 146,173 volumes were issued during the year from the lending library—a decrease on the last report—and it is very creditable to the management, and a tribute to the advantages arising from employing trained librarians, that the huge losses from the Open Access Lending Department reported last year, amounting to 693 volumes, should this year be represented by the comparatively small loss of sixty-nine volumes. The total stock of books is now 27,516 volumes. **Bootle** Free Library has issued 8,000 volumes fewer than last year. Mr. Ogle's transference to the Technical Education Department is duly chronicled, and several other matters of interest are noted. Total stock 20,157 volumes. The *Bootle Free Library, etc., Journal* continues to appear with some interesting features. **Carlisle** Public Library records an increased issue in the lending department, and general activity all round. Special cycle accommodation has been provided. Total stock 25,597 volumes. **Chorley** Public Library has started a quarterly magazine, entitled *The Chorley Library Journal*, of which No. 1 appeared in June. It is published and edited by Mr. Edward McKnight, the Librarian, and has literary and other notes in addition to lists of books added, and topical lists. **Clerkenwell** Public Library has a stock of 19,988 volumes, and issued 110,205 volumes. Sunday opening has been somewhat curtailed. Open reference shelves, with 1,000 volumes will be opened immediately. A branch library has been opened at Pentonville, and the electric light has been introduced.

The Eleventh Annual Report of the **Croydon** Public Libraries is an interesting document, profusely illustrated with photo blocks showing the open reference and lending libraries and the news-room. The total issues were 319,394, an increase of 5,876 on the previous year. A fine open reference department has been established in the Braithwaite Hall. The Central Lending Library has been re-organised and re-classified. The total stock is 42,564 volumes. The May-June number of the *Reader's Index* contains a reading list on "England's Relations with the Transvaal Republic," compiled by Mr. Ernest A. Savage, the Sub-Librarian. The **Fulham** Public Library Twelfth Report records the transfer of powers under the Acts from Commissioners to the Vestry. The Committee propose to extend the lending library facilities. A large number of Lectures have been given between January, 1899, and March, 1900. Issues 155,568 : stock 16,592 volumes. Stirling's and **Glasgow** Public Library has published its Report for the 109th year of its career, and the institution is flourishing. The report contains an address by Dr. Jacks on "Books, Libraries, and Reading." **Hanley** Public Library records 86,134 issues, an increase on last year. Stock 14,076 volumes. A new catalogue has been published. The First Report of the **Hornsey** Public Libraries gives full details of a very remarkable and successful commencement. The lending library is conducted on the safe-guarded open access system. In six month's time 7,631 borrowers had joined the library. The issues for the first five months of the library's life were 96,120, a daily average of 766 volumes. It is not uncommon for this library to issue from 1,400 to 1,650 volumes on a Saturday, with a staff of four or five. No catalogue has yet been printed, and, but for the open access system the library could not have been open for months. Total stock at March 31st, 14,415 volumes. **Kettering** Public Library continues to flourish in very inadequate premises. 47,955 volumes were issued, and the total stock is 3,771 volumes. The Committee strongly urges the Council to provide more accommodation. No. 2 of "Our New Books," issued by the **Kingston-upon-Thames** Public Library fully upholds the merit of the first part, and is a very good example of what such a list should be. There are no extraneous features, and we rejoice to find that Mr. Carter has not been tempted to describe the archaeological value of the Mayor's chain of office ! The varied and important work accomplished by the **Leeds** Institute of Science, &c., is fully described by Mr. Arthur Tait, the Secretary, in a Report of 50 pages. The stock of the library department is now 26,000 volumes.

Liverpool has just issued the Forty-seventh Annual Report of its Public Libraries, Museums and Art Gallery, an important and well-illustrated book covering 92 pages. 1,491,137 volumes were issued, a decrease of 85,080 compared with last year. "Notwithstanding that the total book issues in the reference library show a marked diminution, the issues in the Picton Reading Room for purposes of study have actually exceeded those of last year by 3,921 volumes ; whereas the novels in the Brown Reading Room are less by 12,809 volumes. It will thus be seen that the decrease does not point to any reduction in

the library's usefulness, but rather indicates that improved trade has deprived many people of much of that leisure which they formerly devoted to general reading. It may further be mentioned that a similarly large decrease in book issues has been manifest not in the Public Libraries of Liverpool alone, but in most of the principal City Libraries of the country." Various special catalogues have been prepared. Total stock 207,218 volumes. **Penge** Public Library records the opening of new premises; a total issue of 74,494 volumes; and a stock of 7,868 volumes. **Streatham** Public Libraries in the Ninth Report, record a total stock 23,438 volumes, of which 5,054 are in the Balham Branch. The issues numbered 227,614, "the largest hitherto recorded." The lending libraries have been closed at 8 instead of 9 p.m. since November last, and "does not appear to have caused any serious inconvenience." The death of Sir Henry Tate is sympathetically noticed. The **Waterloo-with-Seaforth** Public Library announces an annual issue of 52,184 volumes, a substantial increase on the work of the first year. Stock 3,627 volumes. Miss Edith G. Taylor, the Librarian, has issued a very careful and intelligently compiled catalogue, arranged according to Dewey's classification. This is the first systematically classified catalogue compiled by a woman librarian we have seen issued in this country in connection with a Public Library, and it is not only an excellent example of its class, but fairly puts to shame many much more ambitious dictionary catalogues sent forth by male librarians with infinite blaring of trumpets. The **West-Hartlepool** Public Library issued 80,785 volumes in 1899-1900, and has now a stock of 12,473 volumes. The new section of the **Wigan** Free Public Library, Reference Department Catalogue, comprises letter L, extending from p. 1409 to p. 1758. It contains large numbers of entries at headings like Lancashire, Libraries, London, Lindsay, Law, &c., and is remarkable for the immense labour shown in the minute indexing of books. The useful index to the subjects of the heading Lancashire would have been twice as clear if presented in smaller type at the beginning or end of the main heading, instead of taking its place with endless repetitions under "Lancashire—Lancashire Canals," &c. As a catalogue of author entries, minute and accurate, Mr. Folkard's work is of much value, but as a guide to subjects it is by no means perfect. In his selection of articles from journals like the *Library*, &c., under the heading "Libraries," Mr. Folkard has given preference to those of an historical or dilettanti character over the practical and useful ones. But the catalogue is remarkable for the care taken with author-entries, and the library being a valuable one, possesses great bibliographical interest.

Willesden Parish sends forth Reports from Kilburn and Willesden Green Public Libraries. Both are flourishing, and trying new methods of extending their popularity. Kilburn stock is 8,475 volumes, and the issue 81,977 volumes. Willesden Green stock is 9,270, and the issue 66,389 volumes. Kilburn has added some open shelves, and displays important books in cases in the Reference Library. Willesden Green reverses this policy, and prints the following statement:—"Readers have hitherto had free access to the bulk of the Reference

Library. Owing to excessive and undue wear and tear upon these books, many of which are valuable and could only be replaced with great difficulty, the committee have decided to affix glass fronts to these cases. Without going at any length into the reason for this change, it might be mentioned that it was found in numerous instances that costly works were used as mere picture books. This method of using the Reference Library can hardly be said to be of any intellectual benefit to the reader, and the effect upon the book is disastrous." Both libraries have reduced or abolished the age limit for juveniles. **Worcester** Public Library has issued a useful *Guide to Prose Fiction*, fully annotated, with dates of authors' births and deaths, and a topical index of subject matter. It contains also an alphabetical list of titles. Truly these open access libraries are well to the fore in every development of library methods, and have set a wonderful example of enterprise and daring to every library in the country. Mr Duckworth's "Guide" is carefully compiled, and, unlike some other librarians who have issued annotated lists, he does not conceal the fact that he is indebted to predecessors for much information. **Great Yarmouth** issued 115,533 volumes in 1899-1900, a slight decrease on former years. The total stock is 16,804 volumes.



LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS

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[Communications for this column, which is not Editorial, should be signed, as an evidence of good faith, and marked, "For Libraries and Librarians." Such signatures will not be published unless specially desired.]

It would appear from the information collected by the Bermondsey Public Library Authorities that **Sunday Opening** is not attracting the class of reader for whom this extension of library work was undertaken. We refer to the reader who is unable to come on week-days. The *Southwark Recorder*, in summarizing the results of the inquiry, states that out of forty-two Public Libraries in London, twenty are closed and twenty-two open on Sundays in some department. Only in two instances, however, out of the twenty-two returns from libraries which are open, does it appear that the reading-rooms are frequented by a different set of persons from those who come on week-days. This is rather an unfortunate state of affairs, as it was one of the principal reasons given why Public Libraries should be opened on Sundays, that hundreds of persons unable to attend on week-days would be able to make use of the libraries on Sundays. We are able to endorse from independent sources the statement that a fresh class of readers is *not* attracted by Sunday opening, save, of course, to a very small extent, and this raises the question, for whose special convenience are the libraries kept open, and is it done at the expense of the ordinary staff? Although the question is one eminently fitted for local option, it seems quite fair to

ask if so much good is being achieved by Sunday opening as its advocates imagine. We are in full sympathy with any method which will popularize Public Libraries and extend their usefulness, but it does seem, judging by the facts in our possession, that there is room for enquiry as to the good being accomplished in this particular instance.

THE Bill promoted by the **British Museum** Authorities to enable them to place files of local newspapers in the towns of their origin and destroy worthless matter of ephemeral interest, seems to be meeting with opposition in some extraordinary quarters. The latest opposer of whom we have heard is the Library Association, or rather, about twenty members of that august body, who met, disagreed among themselves, and finally resolved to instruct the Council of the Association in the name of *all* its members to petition against the Bill! Could anything be more ridiculous than a mixed body of this sort petitioning against anything without the express mandate of all the subscribing members? Here is a Bill which proposes to benefit some libraries enormously by presenting to them as a kind of permanent loan, the very kind of local record which it is of the utmost importance they should possess, though many of them, unfortunately, do not; and against this we have some members of an Association electing to say on behalf of a majority of other members who are anxious to have these files, "You shall not have these newspapers because *we* think that you shouldn't!" Such a proposition coming from an Association representing every point of view, would be simply preposterous, and might cause a disruption in the society of very formidable dimensions. The idea of having a large national library of everything worth preserving, or even keeping, on the off chance that it might one day be useful, is a very admirable one, and we are not aware that the Museum Authorities are proposing to depart from it, so that this outcry is mainly a sentimental one, based upon a good deal of sham reverence for the antique. The proposal to strengthen local collections is a very valuable one, and if it also gives additional room at the British Museum for the storage of *literature*, so much the better. But, the writer has no sympathy with the extreme view taken by some, that a local almanac or time-table is as worthy of preservation as an edition of Shakespeare. Such things should be collected locally, where their value would be appreciated, but it is madness to think of making the British Museum a receptacle for all the rubbish issued in tons from the press, and so long as the authorities only propose to destroy, with all due care and discrimination, such things as calendars, time-tables, grocers' trade lists, local almanacs, and other ephemera of a like nature, we consider the busy-body librarians who oppose the Bill, have very little to complain about. The talk about "dangerous precedent," "thin end of the wedge," &c., is so much bunkum, as even its users very well know. We should think it very improbable that experienced librarians like those at the British Museum, trained to recognize value where very few would even dream of it, would destroy, or even give away, anything which would be of the slightest value to the historian, artist, scientist, or even the casual frequenter of the library.

Still, we should not be very much surprised if the literary librarians who seem to feel so strongly on this matter were to promote a Bill for themselves entitled, "An Act to prevent the Trustees of the British Museum from destroying Beer Bottle Labels, or any other printed matter of a like nature, coming within the provisions of the Copyright Act." [After all this, it is rather a pity to have to announce the withdrawal of the Bill !]

At the first Meeting of the Season of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society, held at Tullie House, **Carlisle**, on Wednesday, June 20th, Mr. Archibald Sparke, City Librarian and Curator, read a paper entitled "Tullie House, historical and descriptive." At the Annual Meeting, held afterwards, Mr. M. G. Collingwood, author of the "Life of John Ruskin," was appointed the new Editor of the "Transactions," in the stead of the late Chancellor Ferguson. The "Transactions" of this Society are now very rare, and it is proposed to close the old series with the sixteenth volume ; and commence a new series under Mr. Collingwood's editorship. At a Meeting of the Carlisle City Council, held on June 12th, it was moved by Mr. Alderman Scott, Chairman of the Tullie House Committee, and carried unanimously, that "the Museum Act be, and is, hereby adopted, to provide a rate for the up-keep of the Museum Department at Tullie House." Mr. Scott, in the course of his remarks, detailed the uses of the institution, and said that it was visited in the course of last year by no less than half-a-million of people. The *Review of Reviews*, for June, contains a notice of a paper on "Cycle Accommodation," written by Mr. Archibald Sparke, which appeared in the *Library World* for May.

THE Technical Libraries of **St. Bride's Institute** will shortly be enriched by the addition of some 2,000 works on printing and type-founding, purchased by the Governors from the widow of the late Talbot Baines Reid. The collection will be a valuable adjunct to the two other special libraries possessed by the Institute, *i.e.*, the "Blades" and "Passmore Edwards." Whilst the majority of the books are treatises on printing, the incunabula and specimens of early printing are very numerous. It is just such a collection as is needed to illustrate the progress of the printer's art, more especially as regards beauty of type. The library is classified in accordance with the scheme drawn up by the late T. B. Reid himself. (See *The Library*, Vol. IV., p. 33.)

APROPOS of the recent discussion in our columns of Mr. **E. A. Baker's** "Descriptive Handbook to Prose Fiction," it is interesting to note that *The Academy* prize for the "Best original set of epigrammatic criticisms of six British or American living novelists" has been awarded to Mr. Baker. No single criticism had to exceed one hundred words in length. We commend these tersely and excellently worded reviews in *The Academy* for April 28th to the attention of our readers.

MR. **David Duff**, Public Library, Dundee, has been appointed librarian of **Ayr** Public Library, in succession to the late Mr. G. B. Phillips. There were 260 applicants.

THE Committee of the **Salford** Public Free Libraries is about to try the interesting experiment of allowing the borrowers to freely handle and examine all books recently added to stock. The following notice is hung in each library, and sufficiently explains the arrangements that have been made:—"During the week ending Saturday, 16th June, all books recently added to this library will be available each day for inspection from 3 p.m. until the hour for closing. The books will be put in circulation for home reading (this sentence refers to the lending libraries only) on the following Monday. They must not be removed from the library until that day, when they can be obtained in the usual manner." Borrowers will not be admitted to the book-store, but the volumes will lie on the counter, where they may be handled and looked through at will.

AN innovation in connection with the **Leeds** Free Public Libraries is the issue of a penny "Quarterly Journal," designed to afford information concerning the books added to the various libraries every quarter. The first number (dated June) gives, alphabetically, the names of the authors of volumes recently acquired, with the titles in smaller type, also, in most cases, the briefest of explanatory notes to indicate the work's character.

New library buildings have been opened at **Douglas** (Isle of Man) and **Jedburgh** (Scotland). The latter library, which was declared open by Mr. Hew Morrison, Chief Librarian of Edinburgh, is situated in Castle-gate, and was gifted by Mr. Andrew Carnegie. The plan of the building is L-shaped, the portion facing the street being two storeys in height, and the back portion, in which the lending library is placed, is one storey. The general reading-room is in the front building on the ground floor, and the reference library and reading-room are on the upper floor. The lending library is shelved to contain 12,000 volumes. The external facade towards Castlegate is designed in the style of the Scottish civil architecture of the sixteenth century. At the top the arms of the burgh are carved in stone. A large semi-circular-headed window lights the reading-room, and the arch-headed entrance doorway is surmounted by a three-light window. Here also the motto, "Let there be light," is carved beside a figure of the sun.

ON June 14th **Pollokshaws** (Renfrewshire), Town Council appointed a committee to consider the propriety of adopting the Free Libraries' Act, and also to consider the competency of the burgh to take over the Campbell Library, in the event of it being resolved to adopt the Act.

The Universities of Toronto Studies. History. First Series, Volume 4, consists of a very valuable selection of criticisms, entitled "Review of Historical Publications relating to Canada, for the year 1899: Edited by Professor George M. Wrong and H. H. Langton." It is published in this country by Messrs. P. S. King and Son, Orchard House, Westminster, S.W., at the easy figure of 4s., and is a useful work to have.

THE new **Gloucester** Free Library was opened to the public on May 31st, by Lord Avebury, in the presence of several thousands of the citizens. The lending department consists of 4,000 volumes which will be worked on the open-access system. Over 3,000 volumes are in the reference department. Lord Avebury delivered an address on the value of Public Libraries. He said the greatest discovery of the nineteenth century was the importance of education. Even so wise and good a man as Dr. Johnson was afraid that if everyone learnt to read, there would be no one willing to do the manual work of the world. Dr. Johnson did not realise the interest and dignity of labour. There were still some who objected to free libraries, on account of the expense. But he thought they made a mistake even from their own point of view, and that this library would tend to lighten and not raise the rates. Victor Hugo well said that "he that opens a school closes a prison." A library was a school for the grown-up. Ignorance cost a country more than education. Though it was many years ago, he could remember very well the first incident which made him take an interest in libraries—he went to see the library in Birmingham in order to form an opinion as to how it was worked. His lordship having described what he found in Birmingham, said he doubted not that they would in Gloucester exclude from that library all frivolous and foolish novels which Ruskin had described as "coming just from the package of the circulating library wet with the last spray of folly." English literature was the birthright and inheritance of our race. A library was a true university and also a fairyland, a haven of repose from the storms and troubles of the world. There was one unnecessary trouble in life from which many suffered much, dullness of monotony; but he could at least congratulate them that after that day no one in Gloucester need ever be dull again.

MR. FRANK **Kidson** of Burley Road, Leeds has issued a work of considerable bibliographical value in his *British Music Publishers, Printers and Engravers, London, Provincial, Scottish and Irish*. 1900, which ought to be in the possession of every Public Library. It is practically a complete guide to all the valuable collections of music and poetry combined issued in Britain from the 16th to the 19th centuries, and displays the activity of music publishers not only in London, but in every town which published music in any form. The price is only 6/-, and the book may be had of the author.

MR. J. A. Hobson, M.A. will deliver a course of lectures at **St. George the Martyr** Public Library, London, under the direction of the London Society for the Extension of University Teaching, on *Great Novelists of the Nineteenth Century*, during the coming Michaelmas term. The course is one of several endowed by Mr. Passmore Edwards. The library will shortly be enriched, through the generosity of Mr. Passmore Edwards, by the addition of two bronze medallion portraits executed by Mr. George Frampton, A.R.A., of Sir Austen H. Layard, and Sir W. E. Molesworth. Layard represented the district in Parliament for seven years, but his fame chiefly rests upon his discovery

of the site of ancient Nineveh, and his literary works. He also represented his country as an Ambassador, and did good work as a Trustee of the British Museum. Molesworth also represented the district in Parliament from 1845 until he died in harness as Colonial Minister, in 1855. He was a great friend of Bentham and James Mill, and was the Parliamentary representative of the "philosophical radicals." In part of his leisure time he edited and produced a sixteen volume edition of the works of Thomas Hobbes of Malmesbury. The medallions will be publicly unveiled at an early date by a distinguished statesman.



LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

ON Monday, June 11th, at 3 p.m., a meeting of this Association was held at Hampton Court Palace, when a large party of members attended. They were shown over part of the Palace by Mr. Ernest Law, B.A., who had arranged to act as guide on this occasion. The usual votes of thanks were passed, and a very enjoyable meeting marked the end of the present session.

A Special General Meeting was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Friday, June 1st, at 8 p.m., the Earl of Crawford, K.T., presiding. The meeting was held in compliance with a requisition signed by Mr. Bernard Kettle and twenty-five others, to consider the following resolution :—

"That this Special General Meeting of the Library Association instructs the Council to so prepare the Ballot Paper for the next Annual Election of Council that the names of all the candidates may be arranged in alphabetical order, under the headings 'London' and 'Country,' without any distinguishing mark to denote retiring members of Council, and that no list of nominators be sent with the Ballot Paper, as heretofore."

About fifty members, including half-a-dozen from the provinces, attended, and after discussing every aspect of the momentous proposal, finally adopted an entirely different proposition to invite the whole Association to vote on the question by means of voting papers! It seems almost a pity, while the members are so anxious to seriously discuss such questions as these, to the exclusion of important subjects in practical librarianship, that someone does not call a special meeting to reduce the size of the Association's official note-paper, or challenge the legality of any librarian charging the expenses of his attendance at Association Meetings to the Petty Cash account of his library. These would be quite as valuable, quite as lively, and quite as much within the objects of the Association as some of the resolutions recently brought before it.

SOCIETY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIANS.

THE Society of Public Librarians had their Annual Excursion on Wednesday, June 20th, the place chosen for a visit this year being Rochester. The members were met by Mr. L. Eric A. Prothero, Librarian, and first proceeded to the Library and Old Corn Exchange, where light refreshments had been kindly provided by Mr. Prothero. The Rev. A. J. Pearman and Mrs. Pearman, on behalf of the Library Committee, welcomed the Society to Rochester, and the members were then conducted over the ancient Castle and Cathedral by George Payne, Esq., F.S.A., the well known antiquary, and local hon. sec. to the Kent Archæological Society, who explained, in a very able manner, the antiquities and interesting features of these places. The party afterwards walked through Cobham Park to Cobham Church (which contains the finest set of brasses in the county of Kent), and here again everything of interest was pointed out by Mr. Payne. A move was then made to the "Leather Bottle" (of *Pickwick* fame), where tea was provided, after which the party was conducted to Cobham College.

During the evening, Mr. Moon, on behalf of the members, presented Mr. Goss, who has been hon. sec. of the Society since its formation, with a handsome set of cutlery, in oak case, with a suitable inscription and *facsimile* of his signature engraved thereon, as a token of the esteem in which he is held by the members; votes of thanks were heartily accorded to Mr. Payne and Mr. Prothero. Altogether a most enjoyable time was spent, and the outing was, in every way, a complete success.



STUDIES IN LIBRARY PRACTICE.

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II.—CLASSIFIED AND ANNOTATED CATALOGUING.

By L. STANLEY JAST, *Chief Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries.**(Continued from page 288.)*

THE INDIVIDUAL BIOGRAPHICAL ENTRY.

110. In the preceding rules the individual biographical entry has been ignored, as it lends itself to more convenient treatment apart. Collective biography is, of course, in no way different from the ordinary book; and the same is to be said of autobiography. Owing to the change of form in the individual biographical entry, due to the author yielding in importance to the biographee, it is usual to separate collective and individual biography in the catalogue, whether this is done on the shelves or not. Individual biography might be further separated in the catalogue into autobiographical and non-autobiographical, though I cannot recall any instance where this has been carried out. In any case, it is important to distinguish in some clear way, between the subject name and the name of the author. Mere position is hardly enough; there should be a distinction in the type. Whatever type has been employed in the other parts for author should be retained for author in the individual biographical entry, and the subject name should be in a different type. If the author is printed in a black-face type, as suggested in these rules, the best type for the subject name will be small capitals, as:—

CHATHAM, WILLIAM PITT, *Earl of*, (1708-78). **Macaulay, T. B.,**
Lord. Two Essays.

111. Give birth and death dates, as in the preceding example. If the person is still living, leave a space where the death date would come, as, IBSEN, HENRIK, (1828-).

112. If a part only of a life is dealt with, the period will be supplied in square brackets after the title, as:—

THOMAS À BECKET, *Saint*, (1118-70). **Radford, L. B.** T. of
London Before His Consecration, [1118-62].

113. The foregoing entry illustrates an economy, that of replacing the name repeated in the title by initials. Another and a greater economy, which also much improves the appearance of the entry, is not to give the title when this consists merely of the name, as:

BRIGHT, *Rt. Hon.* JOHN, (1811-89). **Vince, C. A.** 1889. *Vic.*
Era Ser.

114. In other cases, give the title leaving out the name whenever it is not too much bound up with the title to be dropped, as:—

GOLDSMITH, OLIVER. **Forster, John.** *Life and Times.*

ROSETTI, CHRISTINA. **Bell, Mackenzie.** *Biographical and Critical Study.*

VOL. III., No. 26, August, 1900.

MILLET, J. F. **Naegely, Henry**, (*H. Gaclyn*). J. F. M. and Rustic Art.

115. State briefly who the person written about was, and what noted for, in italics following the heading. There is room for considerable care and skill in many instances in thus striking off the salient features of a life in a short line. The following are examples:—

NADEN, CONSTANCE, (1858-89). *Metaphysician. Poet.*
 MAZARIN, JULES, (1602-61). *Card. Prime minister of Louis XIV.*
 IBSEN, HENRIK, (1828-). *Norwegian dramatist and poet.*
 BORROW, GEORGE, (1803-81.) *Traveller. Writer on the Gypsies, etc.*
 CARDAN, JEROME, (1501-76?). *Italian physician and mathematician.*
 BURTON, Capt. SIR R. F., (1821-90). *Explorer. Translator of the "Arabian Nights."*
 BLACKWOOD, S. A., (1832-93). *Treasury and P. O. official.*
 CORDAY, CHARLOTTE, (1768-93). *Murderess of Marat.*
 EDWARD, THOMAS, (1814-86). *Shoemaker-naturalist.*
 MAC GREGOR, JOHN, (1825-92). *Rob Roy. Canoeist. Philanthropist.*
 MYDELTON, SIR HUGH, (1555?-1631). *Engineer, New River.*
 PUSEY, E. B., (1800-82). *Canon. Oxford Movement.*
 STEPHENSON, ROBERT, (1803-59). *Inventor of the tubular bridge.*
 MARYSIENKA, *Queen of Poland* (1641-1716). *Wife of John Sobieski.*

116. Observe that when the nationality is foreign (including American and Colonial) this is stated, e.g., Ibsen is described as a "Norwegian" dramatist. But don't use "English"; leave this to be understood. In the next two examples the titles supply the information which would otherwise be given by the cataloguer:—

BRONTË, Rev. PATRICK, (1777-1855). **Yates, W. W.** The Father of the Brontës.

MANN, HORACE, (1796-1859). **Hinsdale, B. A.** H. M. and the Common School Revival in the United States.

117. I close this section with three examples where the information is contained in a note, being not succinct enough for a place in the description:—

Grafton, A. H. Fitz-Roy, 3 *Duke of*, (1735-65). Autobiography and Political Correspondence.

G. was prime minister 1767-70, and is largely remembered as having been "severely attacked by Junius."

Blakeney, Capt. Robert, (1789-1858). A Boy in the Peninsular War.

Capt. B. took part in the attack on Copenhagen, 1807, the disastrous retreat of Sir John Moore, the battles of Corunna, Barossa, Moya, Molinos, and the storming of Badajos, the Pyrenees, and the Nivelle; and witnessed the grand review of the allied armies in Paris after Waterloo.

CARDAN, JEROME, (1501-76?). **Waters, W. G.** A Biographical Study.

- C. held the chairs in mathematics and medicine at Pavia, Milan, and Bologna, acquired extraordinary reputation as a physician, and in 1552 was called to Scotland to attend Abp. Hamilton, and in 1571 settled in Rome and received a pension from Pope Gregory XII. He made some important discoveries in algebra, studied astrology, and pretended to a gift of prophecy, and wrote more than a hundred books.

It may be objected to the last that it is long enough for a biographical dictionary, but it illustrates an unusually full note on a man of extraordinary versatility and reputation in his day who is hardly even a name to the general reader. A brief annotation on the same inserted in the description is among the examples in §115.

(To be continued.)



GRIEVANCES OF A FREE LIBRARY READER.

By HORACE J. O'BRIEN.

o o o

IT is many years since I was first made acquainted with the merits of Free Libraries. An eminent statesman opened a library in an adjoining town, and his eloquent and persuasive address on the occasion was reported in most of the newspapers of the day. I read it with much appreciation, and became convinced on the spot that if a terrestrial paradise existed anywhere it was within the walls of a Free Library, where one could browse at will among the great thinkers of all ages and races. Here knowledge dwelt at the beck and call of every seeker, and immense vistas of amusement were opened up to every hard-working citizen who desired rest and relief from the cares of life. My illusions have been considerably battered by actualities since the eminent statesman, aforesaid, first excited in my imagination the picture of an ideal library for the people. But I still cling to the dreams of my earlier days, which I strive to realize on occasion, by stimulating my imagination to the stupendous task of elaborating my statesman's theoretically perfect library out of the many imperfect and unsatisfactory institutions I have visited in different parts of England.

There is, in truth, a remarkable disparity between the claims and the ideals of the average Free Library as advanced by public advocates and the reality which is actually provided by Town Councils and librarians. On the other hand, we are gratified by the vision of a very fair form, beautiful in shape, and perfect in amplitude of flesh and feature. On the other hand we are confronted by a very real skeleton, destitute of most of the qualities and perfections which enthusiasts taught us to expect. There is always a difference between a theoretical conception and its practical realization, but comparatively few efforts

at the materialization of the ideal have resulted in such failures as are exhibited by the average Free Library. It may be that the eminent gentlemen who declare Free Libraries open to the public are filled with the idea that the institution will be managed according to their dreams, and will form a Temple of Literature, from which knowledge and literary delights will radiate like sunbeams, while access to it will be a flower-strewn path, which any humble individual can tread with ease and pleasure. If so, I can only state that my own experience as a Free Library reader has taught me the immense difference between the dreams of library founders and the accomplishments of the actual libraries. The grievances which I propose to specify are very real, very widespread, and represent sores now rankling in the mind of an unfortunately dumb public, which will tolerate from officialdom with voiceless patience, inconveniences which would be very quickly resented in business or domestic affairs. I put them forth to give librarians an idea of how they are viewed by the public at large, and how certain regulations and shortcomings are hindrances to the work of Free Libraries. At the same time a little frank expostulation from an individual, who is only "one of the public," may have the effect of rousing some librarians from the state of careless security into which they have drifted in the mistaken belief that readers care nothing for the management of libraries. They do care, and I am going to show how.

My first grievance is a very serious one and affects the very foundation on which the Free Library is built. I have been taught by the public utterances of eminent men and influential journals to regard the Free Library as primarily a helpful and educational institution, to which anyone may resort in the certainty of procuring willing aid in research and valuable information on out-of-the-way subjects. I have been asked to believe that every librarian is a kind of walking encyclopædia, overflowing with erudition, and eagerly waiting opportunities to dispense it freely in every direction. The true facts of the case are unfortunately quite different. In most cases which have come under my personal observation I have found that librarians and their assistants, instead of being the teachers, are only somewhat inattentive pupils. They expect *us* to know the best sources of information, instead of being themselves fully primed with that knowledge of the contents of books which everyone assumes they possess. Librarians appear to be differently built from other people, in so far as they do not regard it as part of their duty to make themselves familiar with the details of their business. A draper, for example, must not only know all about the qualities, prices and markets of the multifarious goods in which he deals, but must be prepared at a moment's notice to produce any given article, and be able to instruct his customer as to its merits and use. The librarian is quite another sort of man. He contents himself with copying out the names of books, printing them in a catalogue in alphabetical order, and then calmly asks his customers to find out for themselves what they are all about! Several catalogues which I have bought are perfect marvels in the art of concealing necessary information about books. One now before me is styled "Index-

Catalogue," but I find on examination that it indexes nothing but title-pages, and even those simple matters erroneously. I open this inventory and the very first entry which meets my eye is this:—

Frost, T. Forty years' recollections. 4621.

At once are suggested the queries: Who was Frost? When did he live? What was he good or famous for? What period is covered by his recollections? What are they about? When was the book published? and so on *ad infinitum*. The result of the reader's cogitations being a determination not to have anything to do with a book whose purpose and scope are thus deliberately concealed. Every free library catalogue I have hitherto examined is open to similar objections. Not the slightest attempt is made to instruct or aid the borrower who has to read these books. In the preface of one of the free library catalogues which I bought in a provincial town where I once resided, it is stated, after describing the plan of compilation as being alphabetical under authors and subjects, that "By means of this system a reader can easily find what he wants." My contention is that he can do nothing of the kind. He can only, by painfully reading through the entire catalogue, discover what books are preserved in the library, which is quite a different thing from assisting him in any particular quest. If, for example, I am studying a particular district of Africa, it is not enough for my purpose to find all the books on that country gathered together at the word "Africa," and entered pell mell in a long string of titles, without dates or any kind of guide to distinguish Cape Colony from West African books. It is here that the whole absurdity of the position arises. The librarian, who could know, if he liked, the exact locality treated of in a given book, does not trouble himself to find out, but coolly leaves it to be discovered by the poor borrower. I have been compelled to spend four days in one lending library trying to obtain information upon a particular episode of English history, and failing because of a bad catalogue on the one hand, and absurd regulations on the other. I first waded through my "Index-Catalogue" and noted a book which I thought would contain my subject. I then went to the library, waited my turn at the indicator, then at the serving counter, received the book, and almost immediately discovered that it did not touch on the period I wanted. The assistant refused to take it back until the following day because of Rule No. 23, which forbade exchanges on the same day. Four times in succession was I served in similar fashion, and yet the annual report of this library makes an annual boast of its helpfulness to the community, and the boon it is to the citizens who are readers! One library of which I was a member did once offer to let me see all its histories of England at one time, provided I wrote application forms for them and waited in the reference library till they were collected from various parts of the library. But I declined this magnificently generous offer, on the plea that I had supposed all these books were kept in one place, or I should not have requested leave to look over a few.

At one library at East Anglia, where I once borrowed, the method of serving books was very trying. It was necessary to make out a list

of fifty books "you would like to read," not fifty books you *wanted* to read, which was quite another matter, and wait your turn to be served at a long counter. A youth then took your list, made a pretence of searching for one of the fifty, and then either gave you something you did not want, would not read, and certainly thought was quite different, or else informed you that all your list was "out." Meanwhile, from fifty to one hundred good, recent books, which had been returned by other readers, were lying in full view behind the counter, but were strictly tabooed because they had not been marked off! In another library, in addition to the list of books you "would like to read"—but would rather not when you saw them—you had to endure a battle royal in front of an indicator, which in some cases resembled a football scrimmage, and frequently found all your labour and time wasted by every one of your wants being recorded out. My profession of journalist most often takes me to newsrooms and reference libraries, and here I find an almost equal lack of system. In newsrooms my pet bogey is belated newspapers, which seems to be a curse which clings to Free Libraries even more than to coffee shops. Surely a prompt supply of the day's news is not an absolute impossibility. Another strong grievance is the meagre supply of popular illustrated journals and magazines to be found in most Public Libraries. Instead of buying from three to a dozen copies of the best magazines of the day, libraries content themselves with taking a single copy of each, while they squander pounds on expensive professional and official journals issued weekly, which are barely worth house-room. Journals like the *London Gazette*, *Shipping Gazette*, and a whole range of sixpenny technical and trade weekly journals attract only one or two readers each, while people are waiting in queues for the next turn at the "Strand," "Harper," or "English Illustrated." It would be a simple thing to drop out some of the heavy lumber, and take instead additional copies of the popular magazines which are in active demand, and possess interest for the great majority of the readers who support Public Libraries. Although a professional man myself, I decidedly object to see journals like the *Lancet* on the tables of a Public Library, where it is only likely to be looked at chiefly by pruriently minded lads in search of pathological woodcuts, while a single copy of "Chambers' Journal" is worn to rags without satisfying the popular demand. I have many other grievances which I should like to ventilate in the pages of a professional magazine like the *Library World*, but I have already exceeded the limits likely to be assigned to the ideas of an outsider. On a future occasion I may be permitted to submit a few more notes, which may have the effect of rousing librarians to the necessity of bringing their libraries into line with the needs of the present-day public.



THE ANNALS OF A COUNTRY LIBRARY.

By WM. G. HALE, *Public Library, Redruth, Cornwall.*

o o o

ONE of the chief features in the development of the library movement in England—the penny rate—has also been one of its greatest hindrances. In the case I have in view, only the fact that no amount of manœuvring could make it possible to levy *more* than a penny in the pound for library purposes persuaded the opponents of the scheme to allow the Acts to be adopted. But, the said rate only producing a bare hundred a year, the Acts might have remained inoperative but for the generosity of that pillar of the Free Library, Mr. Passmore Edwards, who with characteristic promptitude, when the matter was put before him, at once offered to present a building and the nucleus of a library. Another local benefactor having left a legacy of £2,000, the wheels of progress, thus doubly oiled, began to revolve with less friction and complaining, the building was run up, and one fine May day a great crowd witnessed the formal opening ceremony, performed by Mr. Edwards himself.

This inaugural flourish of trumpets over, the librarian settled down to steady work, for as yet Mr. Edward's donation of 500 volumes were the only books in the place. A book-selection committee was formed and set to work, and soon the circulating department was in full operation. Full, did I say? Almost it had been empty, for only a few hundred volumes of fiction had been purchased, and the eager borrowers came with such a rush that one Saturday evening the librarian was struck with dismay to see that his whole available stock of novels had dwindled to less than one shelf-full. Happily the limit of the demand had been reached and from that time the stock-in-hand gradually increased, and the official was spared the unique experience of having to put up a notice to the effect that in future the circulating library would be worked with empty shelves.

A catalogue was next compiled, and here, as in other matters, the sadly limited income—less than £150 per annum all told—made its effect evident. For some time it seemed as if the borrowers would have to guess what the library contained, until, by dint of a spell of advertisement canvassing, the difficulty was conquered and the catalogue printed.

Then came the problem of how to provide novels in sufficient numbers to satisfy the borrowers who thirsted with an unslakable thirst after the very latest of everybody's new books. Such a trifle as lack of money was flouted by them as the idlest of idle talk. It was nothing to them that current expenses, after countless economies, swallowed up £130 out of the £150, leaving only £20 for new books and re-binding. New books they must and would have. Happily when the readers found that bricks could not be made without straw, they took a more rational view of the matter and began to take a little solid reading with

their fiction; then, finding it better than they had anticipated, they took more and yet more, until at last the proportion of fiction decreased from 95 per cent. to 70, the other classes of reading increasing to 30 per cent. Towards this desirable result a couple of donations of scientific books from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge largely helped, as did also the issuing of student's duplicate tickets on which no fiction could be taken out. Still it was not accomplished without an infinity of suggesting and tempting on the part of the librarian, who missed no opportunity of "pushing" the works of travel and history, of drama and poetry, of science and art. In due time he reaped his reward. One after another asked for guidance and help in the choice of books, until the responsibility of selection became almost overwhelming. Against this background of Sisyphean labour, however, gleamed a few lighter touches; as when a fair lady borrower rushed up to the counter, and, in tones of entreaty exclaimed "Mr. ——— have you got 'An Old Maid's Love.'" The librarian's modesty forbade a reply. "Beside the Bonny Brier Bush" proved a great stumbling block to the borrower but imperfectly acquainted with book titles, being transformed into "Bonny Bushy Brier," "Behind the Brier Bush," and other queer "derangements of epitaphs."

Meanwhile the reading room was made the most of; the bareness of the walls was relieved by large wall-maps of South Africa, Australia, and America, and a set of natural history diagrams, presented by Messrs. Colman, of mustard fame; a baize-coloured board was put up on which war maps were pinned, changing with the course of political events; twenty time-tables and guides, presented by the principal railway and shipping companies, were placed in a rack; and a glass case was provided in which rare or curious books and manuscripts were exhibited. The point in all this is that these improvements cost next to nothing, and the same remark applies to the more important part to follow.

What I have already stated as to income is sufficient to prove that the library of which I am speaking could not afford to purchase many books of reference, as these are generally expensive, although some are indispensable. To start with, then, the stock included Chambers' Encyclopædia, Fergussons' Architecture, Lydekker's Royal Natural History, Stanford's Geographical Compendium, and a small lot of local books. Beyond this point the funds could not go, and yet it was evident that more must be had if the reference library was to be worthy the name. So, in despair, the librarian bethought him of the British Government as a last resort. To its divers departments he applied himself in many letters, sometimes rebuffed, at others successful in obtaining grants of books. These included the Patent Office publications, the illustrated descriptive catalogues and guides of the British Museum and the Natural History Museum, 200 volumes from the Public Record Office (constituting a princely library of historical books, shortly to be doubled by a second grant), and last, but not least, in either number or interest, an innumerable host of "Blue Books." These despised publications were found, on a close examination, to

contain a vast mine of information of the exact kind desired for the reference department, and their utility is enhanced by the fact that many of the series are continued from year to year, and so are kept well up to date. Perhaps the most useful set is the series of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, which, by careful classification, have been made to serve the double purpose of a commercial directory and a gazetteer.

All there is to do to obtain these Blue Books is to ask that the monthly lists of parliamentary publications may be sent from H.M. Stationery Office, at Westminster, and then to return these lists marked in pencil against the numbers wanted, when the copies are promptly sent down. In this way a really useful and valuable reference library may be accumulated, where information on almost every subject under the sun may be obtained, at a cost of practically nothing.

One word in closing. Such a reference library as I have been describing is useless without an almost ideally perfect system of classification, and for this, after a careful examination and comparison of the chief modern systems, the Dewey Decimal Classification in its entirety was found to answer best. Of course the use of such a system implies careful study of its details, and, at first, many mistakes, but an erasure of a figure or two on a Blue Book mattered little in comparison with the truly immense advantage gained by a full and close classification. Besides, the cardinal virtues of orderliness is greatly strengthened by such work and it soon becomes an acute pleasure to use such a splendid tool as the Dewey system.

A word of earnest thanks is due from the struggling librarian, who cannot afford to buy cumbrous and expensive bibliographical works, to the United States' Government for their generosity in sending, free of all cost, copies of the model library catalogues, the rules of cataloguing, and the fine series of papers on library arrangement, prepared for the meeting of the American Library Association, at the Chicago World's Fair, in 1893. Armed with these examples of what should be, and may be done, and with the admirable classification of Dewey to guide him in any difficulty that may arise, no librarian need fear failure in tackling the serious problem of how to classify his books to the best advantage.



BOOK SELECTION AND ANNOTATION.

o o o

THERE can be no doubt that as the flood of new books increases in volume the difficulties of selection and description become greater and greater, and no one feels them more than the public librarian charged with the delicate task of choosing only the best and most enduring books which are published. Not only is he hampered by the quantity issued from the press, but by the necessity of selecting only a small percentage of all the works published. If Public Libraries bought everything published, one difficulty—that of

selection—would disappear, but as this is not the case, the problem of careful selection remains. A considerable deal of trouble and doubt would be saved if librarians, or their committees, could have the privilege of actual examination before purchase. We believe every librarian buys many books every year which he would never have dreamt of placing in his library if he had *seen* them before ordering. There is no reliance whatever to be placed upon publishers' announcements, because they are not drawn up specially to suit the needs of the conservators of literature. Trade advertisements are generally devised to attract, not to instruct, and publishers' notices are no exception. They nearly all fail in one vital particular—they are not *descriptive*. When a new book on any topic is issued, the publisher, in his announcements, relies almost entirely upon the title, together with some press extracts in very general terms, dealing, perhaps, with the literary style of the book, or making some vague and friendly comments on its get up or opportuneness. This kind of announcement is practically useless to a body of book buyers who want the *best* works on every subject, and require some information about the subject-matter of books, or the precise ground which they cover, before placing them before readers as the safest available guides on their particular topics. Actual examination seems the only practical method of enabling librarians to select with discrimination, but the difficulties in the way seem unsurmountable. Now that the practice of sending parcels of books "on sale or return" to booksellers has been given up by the publishers, the book-buyer has no means whereby he can examine and judge for himself as to the appearance, style, range, or general atmosphere of a new book, unless he actually buys it outright.

The librarian of a London library wanted to see an expensive work on a technical subject before asking his committee to buy it, and requested his bookseller to send a copy "on approbation" for the guidance of his committee and himself. He was informed that the publisher—a well-known London firm—would only *sell* a copy, and that no books were sent out on approval. The result was that this particular book was not bought. In striking contrast to this is the practice of an American firm in London, who permitted a librarian to run over their stock and select a number of attractive and good historical works, some rather expensive, to be placed before his committee "on approval." The books were sent out on the condition that any not approved could be returned, and that the price would be the same whether supplied direct or through a local bookseller. In this case *all* the expensive works were kept by the library, and only a few cheap novels returned. It is thus perfectly clear that the illiberal methods of many modern publishers are acting against their own interests and sales, for it is not at all improbable that, if Public Libraries could be allowed to have expensive technical, scientific, and artistic books on approval, the purchases of this particular kind of book-buyer would be enormously increased. Librarians are not going to buy expensive "pigs-in-a-poke," like high-priced reference books, from the meagre descriptions issued by publishers in their announcements, and

the moral of it all is that, if dear books, printed in small editions for a special class of enquirer, are to be bought by Public Libraries, then better means of exhibiting them must be adopted.

Most of the lists and advertisements of new books published in such journals as the *Publishers' Circular*, *Bookseller*, *Athenæum*, *Bookman*, and similar papers, are too curt and uninforming to be of much value to large book-buyers and selectors like librarians; while the majority of new book reviews generally evade giving any information as to what books are about, while much valuable space is wasted in the effort to show what a mighty clever fellow the critic is. There is, then, no good practical guide to the best books, issuing in a constant stream from the press, which are most suitable for Public Libraries, and if publishers maintain their present ultra-conservative attitude there seems little hope of immediate improvement.

It may be as well to state at this point that these remarks do not refer to novels or other light literature by well-known popular authors of the day, but solely to high-class books of reference, and works of travel, history, science, theology, and art. As a general rule the lighter and better known literature of the imagination requires no better recommendation than its authors' names, and it is not so necessary to make known and elucidate the contents of such books. But with works of more serious import and greater cost it is essential that extensive buyers like Public Libraries should be in a position to judge of a book's suitability, quality, and scope by some more certain means than publishers' announcements as at present devised. One suggestion towards this very desirable end, which we make with some diffidence, is that arrangements should be made between all the booksellers who supply the principal Public Libraries with books and the leading publishers, whereby parcels of important technical, scientific, historical, or artistic works could be submitted periodically to library committees for examination, with the option of returning any not approved, the bookseller having them "on sale or return" for the purpose. This would prove satisfactory in two ways. On the one hand, publishers would secure more regular customers for their heavier books, and library committees would be tempted to buy every work of importance whose value could be made plain to them by actual examination, while, incidentally, the librarian would be saved the annoyance of selecting unsuitable books from inadequate lists and announcements. Failing the establishment, by the publishers, of proper book-bazaars in every large town, where all the new books can be seen and examined, we can see no other way of meeting the peculiar needs of buyers who select books for the public for permanent preservation.

Another method which would meet the requirements of many librarians in several respects, is a plan whereby a selection of suitable books, carefully made from current publications, could be properly described and accurately annotated at regular intervals. Such a list, if prepared by a cataloguing expert, could be made to serve the double purpose of a new book order list and a guide to correct form in cataloguing and annotating. Every librarian could use it as a guide to

the choice of suitable new books, and would find the descriptive annotations of immense service in aiding his decision. Many librarians, who are pressed for time and have not got assistants trained in annotative cataloguing, could turn to these lists for model entries, which would save much time and ensure a considerable degree of accuracy and uniformity. Criticism in such annotations would be wholly out of place, but full and accurate descriptive notes would enable everyone to obtain a good idea of the contents and scope of important modern books. Such a list might occupy five or six pages monthly of, say, the *Library World*, and as in this case it would fall under the direct notice of every librarian in the country, it would pay publishers to send copies of important books for annotation and description in this way, or else send notes on some uniform plan. If this plan could be tried it would be of great value to busy librarians, and publishers would find a substantial benefit arising from having their new works described and set out ready for cataloguing in a manner which would be intelligible and attractive to all library workers. These suggestions are the outcome of many years' study of book-selection in all its departments, and we feel sure, if adopted, the result would be a great improvement in the quality and value of the books purchased for our Public Libraries.

[EDITORIAL NOTE.—The second suggestion of this writer seems to us so good and practical that we propose to make an effort to carry it out in the pages of the *Library World*. In an early number we hope to publish an example of an Annotated List of New Books, suitable for selection and cataloguing purposes, which will test the value of our correspondent's suggestion. Should this be duly appreciated we shall try and make arrangements with publishers and an expert cataloguer for the regular appearance of a fully descriptive list of all important new books.]



SEQUEL STORIES.

By THOMAS ALDRED, *Librarian, St. George-the-Martyr Public Library, London.* (Continued.)

o o o

HOWELLS, W. D.
Chance acquaintance
Their wedding journey

HUGHES, T.
Tom Brown's schooldays
Tom Brown at Oxford

HUGO, V. *Les Misérables* :—
Fantine
Cosette and Marius
Jean Valjean

HUYSMANS, J. K.
En route
The cathedral

HYNE, C.
Adventures of Capt. Kettle
Further adventures of Capt. Kettle

INGELOW, J.
Off the Skelligs
Fated to be free

- JAMES, H.**
Roderick Hudson
Princess Casamassima
- JEPHSON, E.**
The passion for romance
The keepers of the people
- JEROME, J. K.**
Three men in a boat
Three men on the Bümmel
- *KING, C.**
Colonel's daughter
Marion's faith
*This author's stories of U. S. army life are largely connected by thread of same character. Particulars required.
- KINGSTON, W. H. G.**
Three midshipmen
Three lieutenants
Three commanders
Three admirals
—
Adrift in a boat
Washed ashore
- *KIPLING, R.**
The jungle book
The second jungle book
Particulars of the author's stories of Indian life are required.
- KIRKLAND, J.**
Zury
The McVeys
- LANG, A. FAIRY STORIES:—**
'Prince Prigio' and 'Prince Ricardo' are both o.p., I believe, and probably included in the series published by Longmans under the titles of
The blue fairy book
The red fairy book
The green fairy book
The yellow fairy book
The pink fairy book
- LE PELLETIER, E. MADAME SANS-GENE:—**
La blanchisseuse
La maréchale
Le roi de Rome
- LES TRAHISONS DE MARIE-LOUISE:—**
La Barrière Clichy
Le Belle Polonaise
Les fourberies de Fouchy
- LYTTON, LORD**
Ernest Maltravers
Alice
—
The Caxtons
My novel
What will he do with it
—
"Zicci" was completed as "Zanoni"
- MACDONALD, G.**
Annals of a quiet neighbourhood
Seaboard parish
Vicar's daughter
—
Malcolm
Marquis of Lossie
—
Sir Gibbie
Donal Grant
—
Thomas Wingfold, curate
Paul Faber, surgeon
- MACLAREN, IAN, (J. M. Watson)**
Beside the bonnie brier bush
Days of auld lang syne
Kate Carnegie
- MATHERS, H.**
Story of a sin
Eyre's acquittal
- MATHEWS, J. H. BESSIE series:—**
Bessie at the sea-side
Bessie in the city
Bessie and her friends
Bessie on the mountains
Bessie at school
Bessie on her travels
- MAGGIE BRADFORD series:—**
Maggie Bradford's club
Maggie Bradford's schoolmates
Maggie Bradford's prize
Maggie Bradford's fair
Maggie Bradford's bear
—
Uncle Rutherford's attic
Uncle Rutherford's niece
- MELVILLE, H.**
Typee
Omoo
- MEREDITH, G.**
Sandra Belloni (*Same as Emilia in England*)
Vittoria
- MERRIMAN, MRS. E. J.**
The little Millers
Mollie Miller

MITFORD, B.
The king's assegai
The white shield

MOORE, G.
Evelyn Innes
Sister Theresa

MORGAN-DE-GROOT, J.
A lotus flower
Even if

MORIER, J.
Hajji Baba of Ispahan
Hajji Baba in England

MORRISON, A. MARTIN HEWITT series:—
Martin Hewitt, investigator
Chronicles of Martin Hewitt
Adventures of Martin Hewitt

MUNROE, KIRK. RAIL AND WATER
series:—
Under orders
Prince Dusty
• Cab and caboose
Coral ship
—
Fur seal's tooth
Snow shoes and sledges

NELSON, L.
Physician's daughters
Wandering Homes

LIPHANT, MRS. CHRONICLES OF
CARLINGFORD:—
The rector
The doctor's family
Salem Chapel
The perpetual curate
Miss Marjoribanks
Phæbe, junior
—

Ladies Lindores
Lady Car
—

Greatest heiress in England
Sir Tom
—

For love and life
Squire Arden
—

A little pilgrim in the unseen
Two stories of the seen and the
unseen

The land of darkness

Query—Does "On the dark mountains"
belong to this series?

" OUIDA " (Louise De La Ramée,
Princess Napraxine
O:hmar

" PANSY " (Mrs. I. M. Alden).
CHAUTAUQUA series:—
Four girls at Chautauqua
Chautauqua girls at home

ESTER REID series:—

There is a difference of opinion as to
the order the books should be read.
The figures denote the order according
to an English source, the alternate
order is from an American source.

- (1) Ester Reid
- (3) Julia Reid
- *Three people
- (4) King's daughter
- (5) Wise and otherwise
- (2) Ester Reid yet speaking

*No connection with the series according
to the English authority.

PANSY'S NEW LIBRARY FOR BOYS AND
GIRLS:—
Getting ahead
Pansies, etc.
Two boys

RUTH ERSKINE series:—
Ruth Erskine's crosses
Links in Rebecca's life
From different standpoints (by
"Pansy" and I. H. Foster)

According to an English source only
Links in Rebecca's life and *Ruth
Erskine's crosses*, in this order, consti-
tute the books in this series.

PARKER, G.
Pierre and his people
Adventurer of the north
A Romany of the snows

PHELPS, ELIZ. J. (now Mrs. Ward)
GYPSY BRENTON series
Gypsy Brenton
Gypsy's cousin Joy
Gypsy's sowing and reaping
Gypsy's year at the Golden Crescent

PONTOPPIDAN, H.
Emanuel
The promised land

RAND, E. A. LOOK AHEAD series:—
Making the best of it
Up north in a whaler
Too late for the tide mill

- UP THE LADDER CLUB series :—
 Knight of the white shield
 School in the light-house
 Yard-stick and scissors
 Camp at Surf Bluff
 Out of the breakers
 ———
 Her Christmas and her Easter
 Margie at the Harbor Light
- RATHBONE, MRS. A. (*nee* A. Manning)
 Mary Powell
 Deborah's diary
- READE, C.
 It is never too late to mend
 Autobiography of a thief
 ———
 Love me little love me long
 Hard cash
- REID, MAYNE
 Bush boys
 Young yägers
 Giraffe hunters
 ———
 Boy hunters
 Young voyagers
 ———
 Plant hunters
 Cliff climbers
 ———
 Ran away to sea
 Ocean waifs
- "RITA" (Mrs. W. D. Humphreys)
 Sheba
 Countess Pharamond
- RIVES, AMELIE. (*now* Princess
 Troubetzkoy)
 The quick or the dead
 Barbara Dering
- RUTHERFORD, MARK (W. H. White)
 Autobiography of Mark Rutherford
 Mr. Rutherford's deliverance
- SAND, GEORGE (Madam Dudevant)
 Consuelo
 Countess of Rudolstadt
 ———
 A rolling stone
 Handsome Lawrence
- SCALPEL, ALSCELAPIUS (E. Berdoe)
 St. Bernard's
 Dying scientifically
- SCOTT, SIR W.
 The monastery
 The abbot
- CHRONICLES OF THE CANONGATE
 include :—
 Chrystal Croftangry
 Fair maid of Perth
 Highland widow
 My Aunt Margaret's mirror
 Surgeon's daughter
 Tapestried chamber
 Two drovers
- TALES OF MY LANDLORD include :—
 Black dwarf
 Bride of Lammermoor
 Castle Dangerous
 Count Robert of Paris
 Heart of Mid-Lothian
 Legend of Montrose
 Old Mortality
- TALES OF THE CRUSADERS include —
 Betrothed
 Talisman
- SETOUN, G. (T. N. Hepburn)
 Barncraig
 Sunshine and Haar
- SEWELL, E. M.
 Journal of a home life
 After life
- SIENKIEWICZ, H.
 With fire and sword
 The Deluge
 Pan Michael
- SIMS, G. R.
 Mary Jane's memoirs
 Mary Jane married
- SMITH, A.
 Alfred Hagart's household
 Miss Oona McQuarrie
- SOUTHWORTH, Mrs. E. D. E.
 Information wanting as to the order
 her works of fiction should be read.



AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

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TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL MEETING, MONTREAL,
JUNE 7-16TH, 1900.

ON the morning of Thursday, June 7th, 1900, the 22nd conference of the American Library Association was opened in the Convocation Hall of the Presbyterian College of McGill University, Montreal; on the evening of Saturday, June 16th, on the R. & O. steamer *Canada*, the meeting was declared adjourned *sine die*. The ten days of this Canadian conference will long stand out in the record of A. L. A. meetings, in their combination of beautiful surroundings, varied interests, large attendance, and the overflowing hospitality and kindness of the welcome extended by friends and fellow-workers in the Dominion. In point of attendance the meeting ranges closely with the Chautauqua conference of 1898, these two meetings being the largest in the history of the Association. At the final Montreal session 439 persons had been registered, and the total recorded attendance may fairly be estimated as 450. The representative character of the meeting may be illustrated by the fact that of the twenty members of the A. L. A. council only three were absent, while geographically the attendance ranged from East to West across the continent. The headquarters of the Association were in the Windsor Hotel, and the business sessions were held in the fine hall of the Presbyterian College of McGill University, about a ten-minute walk distant, set in the beautiful college grounds almost at the foot of Mount Royal. The meeting had been so arranged that the active working days were broken by a Sunday, set aside as a "day of rest, or for study of the ecclesiastical features of Montreal"—an innovation that seemed to meet with general approval; while the programme presented had a variety and freshness that was surprising when one reflects how often most library questions have been considered and discussed.

Most of the delegates reached Montreal in the late afternoon of Wednesday, June 6th, and as usual, the evening of arrival was devoted to an informal reception and social session, held in the Windsor parlours. Here the visitors were welcomed by the local reception committee, and with kindly hosts and friends, old and new, the fatigues of travel were forgotten for a pleasant hour or two.

FIRST DAY.

Thursday, June 7th, was the first business day of the conference. It opened in Convocation Hall, where, at 10.15 a.m., President Thwaites called the meeting to order, and introduced Dr. William Peterson, Principal of McGill University. Dr. Peterson's short address of welcome was full of the spirit of cordial good will, touching sympathetically upon the mission of Public Libraries at the present day, and

emphasizing the kinship between the English-speaking people in purpose, in method, and in the free play of personal opinion. Differences there were, and must be, but he felt that all might join in the hope for "a quiet and steady development of the sense of brotherhood, of a feeling for unity of moral forces and sentiment, and for the strengthening of this brotherhood, in spite of all difficulties, by the use of common language and the sentiment of a common freedom."

Various Reports of Committee were read, and in the discussion that followed Mr. Dana's Report on Library Schools, Mr. Dewey said that at Albany the recent growth of the school had been in the steady direction of higher entrance requirements; that the number of men entering had also increased, and that there had been a constant broadening of the course. He felt that no course of training could do more than bring out individual qualities—"If a man is born of poor fibre, of poor fibre he will remain. You can polish agate; you can polish mahogany; but you can't polish a pumpkin—and if a third-rate man comes to a library school, and the Lord made him third-rate, he will be a third-rate librarian to the end of the chapter." Dr. Richardson, Mr. Andrews, Mr. Crunden, Mrs. Fairchild, and Miss Plummer also spoke, and the recommendations of the committee were referred to the council for action.

The afternoon was given up to a trolley ride through the city to the suburb of Westmount, where the Association was welcomed to the charming building of the Westmount Public Library by Mayor W. D. Lighthall. The other attractive municipal buildings were visited and admired, and a lawn tea was served on the beautiful grounds of the public park.

In the evening a public meeting was held in Windsor Hall, adjoining the head quarters hotel. It was largely attended, and was opened by the reading of a cordial message of greeting from the Library Association of the United Kingdom. President Thwaites then delivered his annual address, reviewing "Ten years of American library progress." He pointed out the many striking features of library work that had either had their inception or been developed within these ten years:—"State library commissions; inter-state, state, and district associations; library training schools; travelling and branch libraries; travelling pictures; library advertising; children's rooms; rooms for the blind; access to shelves; co-operation with teachers; co-operative cataloguing; inter-library loans and exchanges; the general erection of superb library buildings; phenomenal gifts from philanthropists of library buildings and endowments; compulsory library legislation; improved methods of binding and issuing public documents—all of these, which to-day so largely engross the attention of American librarians, in their conventions and professional journals, are practically the outgrowth of this brief period. For the most part, they are efforts towards popularizing the library; and this is clearly the especial characteristic of our recent professional growth." The growth of the A.L.A., from its organization, in 1876, was sketched, and the various movements developed from that central force were noted. In conclusion, the

speaker dwelt upon the great progress made in library technique, especially in the development of co-operative effort between libraries, expressing the belief that "if librarianship has in our day come to be recognized as a profession, it is because we have at last become imbued with the scientific spirit—are mutually helpful, continually awake to new impressions, eagerly receptive of new ideas and new ideals, ever experimenting, ever learning, ever broadening, ever building on the foundations of the past."

Sir Melbourne Tait followed, with an address welcoming the A.L.A. to Canada, and dwelling upon the mission of libraries as one of the strongest influences in the advance of civilization. He concluded by pointing out the great need that existed in Montreal for a Public Library to which the citizens might look with as much pride as they did to McGill University.

"Brotherhood among English-speaking men" was the theme of a spirited address by Dr. J. K. Hosmer, who spoke with sympathy and humour of the many ties that bind the English-speaking race in one brotherhood.

"Work with children" was the subject of a bright address by Miss C. M. Hewins, who dwelt upon the qualifications that should mark the successful children's librarian; and the session was closed by Johnson Brigham, state librarian of Iowa, who spoke of the "Traveling library movement," as developed within the last few years, and the uplifting influence it has exerted throughout scattered communities.

SECOND DAY.

Friday morning's session was opened at 10.15, with brief presentation of announcements and business, preliminary to the separate sessions on Children's work and College and Reference questions. Mr. Andrews made a short report on the handbook of American libraries, based on a telegram received from Mr. Teggart. This included a request that the committee be authorized to print the handbook, provided sufficient subscriptions at \$3 per volume could be secured to cover the cost; also that the expenses of the committee be paid. The report was referred to the council for consideration.

A short recess was then taken, and the Association resolved itself into two sections—one for the consideration of Library work with children, the other a session of the College and Reference Section. Miss Plummer, as vice-president, presided over the former, which was held in Convocation Hall, and was largely attended. The first topic was "Methods of inducing care of books," by Miss Mary E. Dousman, of the Milwaukee Public Library, who found that much of the misuse of books was due to bad book-making, and the selection of delicately tinted covers by publishers, and "to the lack of training which children receive in the matter of respect for inanimate objects in general." She urged that training in this direction was within the province of the children's librarian, and that a children's department might be one of the strongest centres of influence for inducing proper care of books. Mr. Brett and Mr. Foster spoke on the general subject of Miss Dousman's

paper. The second subject before the session was "Children's books and periodicals," presented by Miss Abby Sargent, in a charming paper, full of true literary feeling, which made a strong appeal for higher standards in juvenile literature; this was discussed by H. L. Elemendorf, Miss Hewins, and Mrs. Fairchild. "Picture-work in children's libraries" was introduced by Miss Annie Carroll Moore, of Pratt Institute, whose remarks were illustrated by a number of picture bulletins, demonstrating faults and excellencies in picture work; while Miss Clara Hunt had a short paper on the subject, deprecating the use of bulletins only as a means of increasing the circulation of what are known as "instructive" books. "Story-telling, lectures, and other adjuncts of the children's library" was the final topic, opened in a paper by Miss Olcott, of Pittsburg, read by W. R. Watson, which described the broad kindergarten aspect of children's work in Pittsburg; and the subject was closed by Miss Tobitt, of Omaha, and Miss McCrory, of Cedar Rapids, who spoke of the efforts to reach and interest children made in their respective libraries.

In one of the smaller rooms of the college building the College and Reference Section held a successful meeting with Dr. Richardson as chairman. "The care of continuations and serials" was the first topic, presented by J. T. Gerould, of Columbia University, whose statement of practical methods in this perplexing field evoked general discussion and comparison of experiences. These dealt chiefly with the question of title-pages and indexes, and the putting of all parts or numbers except the last on the shelves with the sets; while as a means of securing the attention of publishers a boycott was proposed against those periodicals not publishing title-pages. "Reference work in the Grosvenor Library" was described by E. P. Van Duzee, who laid emphasis on the importance of the classed catalogue in this work and referred to the department system in reference to libraries. Miss Isabel Ely Lord gave an interesting exposition of the functions of "The college *v.* university library," which aroused animated discussion. Her premise was that the college library should be a well-rounded, systematically developed collection, with just enough sources to prepare the student for university work, and that it should weed out, by gift, sale, or otherwise, all material not immediately important in the work of instruction, while the university library, on the other hand, should aim to add all editions and all material, but with co-operation from other libraries as to specialties. This led to a lively debate *pro* and *con* on the advisability of "weeding out" such collections, in which Dr. Billings, Mrs. Spencer, E. B. Hunt, Johnson Brigham, Mr. Montgomery, and others took part. The meeting throughout held the interest of those present, and it was closed after a prolonged session, with the election of W. I. Fletcher as chairman for the ensuing year.

In the afternoon the Association set business aside, and enjoyed a beautiful trip down the river on the steamer *Duchess of York*, passing through the St. Gabriel Lock, and taking the Lachine Rapids on the return. The evening was given up to work with simultaneous section meetings for the Large Libraries and the State and Law Libraries

Section. The former were assigned the general meeting hall, where, under the direction of W. H. Brett and Dr. Steiner, topics relating to "Open shelves in the light of actual experience" were presented and discussed. The branches of this subject included a consideration of the classes of literature to which access should be allowed, by S. S. Green, read by Dr. Steiner; "Access to a 'standard' library," by W. E. Foster; "Access to a selected library," by H. L. Elmendorf, who described the plan followed at Buffalo; and "Qualifications of attendants in open shelf departments," by A. E. Bostwick. There was considerable discussion, especially on the question of book-theft, and the relative culpability of small boys, women, and students and the familiar subject seemed to hold general interest to a surprising degree.

THIRD DAY.

Saturday morning was given up to a joint session of the Trustee's Section and the Large Libraries Section, under the direction of W. H. Brett as chairman, and Dr. B. C. Steiner as secretary. The subjects presented were of direct practical interest, relating especially to the business side of library administration.

The evening was given up to social enjoyment. A pleasant visit was made to the Library of the Bar of Montreal, in the Court House, where the members were welcomed by Mr. Carter, who gave a most interesting account of French law, and briefly reviewed the history of the library. The Chateau de Ramezby was then visited, where a delightful reception was tendered by the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal. An address of welcome was delivered by Judge Baby, to which response was made by Mr. Thwaites; refreshments were served in the vaulted kitchen underground, with its great oven and dungeon-like walls, and the many interesting features of the old chateau, with the portraits and relics preserved there by the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, were an unfailing enjoyment to the visitors.

FOURTH DAY.

A beautiful Sunday, clear and brilliant, broke the crowded conference days and gave a welcome opportunity for rest—or for the change of occupation that is, after all, the best rest. For careful observation failed to discover any who *rested*, in the sense of the dictionary definition—"to cease from motion." Instead, the A. L. A. turned its activities from Literature to Religion, and pursued "the ecclesiastical features of Montreal," as the programme had it, from early dawn until moonrise. One party rested serene in the consciousness of having "done" six churches, until their cup was embittered by meeting a rival group with eleven to its credit; while the entire conference seemed represented at the evening service in the Jesuit Church. The Mountain, too, was the goal of many, who drove, or walked, or went by the incline to delight in the glorious view of the city, and river, and islands and the distant line of the Green Mountains. For all, the day was full of interest and enjoyment, and the change it gave made all more ready to pick up the threads of business on the next morning.

FIFTH DAY.

Business was resumed at 10.30 on Monday, when the Association met in general session to consider further committee reports and local announcements.

The main body settled down for one of the most interesting features of the programme—the presentation of “Canadian library and literary topics.” This was opened by James Bain, Jr., with a paper on “Canadian libraries,” which was, he said, in a sense, a continuation of the report upon Canadian libraries, made by him at the Thousand Islands conference in 1887. Reviewing the library condition of the Dominion, Mr. Bain noted briefly the leading libraries in each province, reviewing also the general library development. He gave the following statistical summary: Nova Scotia, nine libraries, 90,020 volumes; Prince Edward Island, two libraries, 7,500 volumes; New Brunswick, six libraries, 50,530 volumes; Quebec, forty-one libraries, 670,025 volumes; Ontario, 439 libraries, 1,287,667 volumes; Manitoba, four libraries, 46,435 volumes; Northwest Territories, one library, 3,500 volumes; British Columbia, five libraries, 16,900 volumes; general government libraries, five, with 290,000 volumes. The total for 1900 was 512 libraries with 2,420,577 volumes.

“The Aberdeen Association” was the subject of a most interesting paper, prepared by Miss E. Laidlaw, and read by Mrs. Edwin Hanson, president of that association. The society was established in 1890, through the suggestion of Lady Aberdeen, and its mission is the distribution of attractive literature among the isolated settlers of the Canadian Northwest. Books and periodicals are sent in monthly parcels, for which free carriage has been obtained from the Postmaster-General, and branches of the association have spread from the parent branch of Winnipeg to Halifax, Ottawa, Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, Hamilton, Victoria, Kingston, Quebec, St. John, and other stations. During the past year 20,000 parcels were sent out, reaching more than 8,000 people. Semi-annual letters are required to be exchanged between recipients and the working members, through whom the parcels are sent, and in many cases more frequent correspondence results. Selections from some of the letters were read—touching in their revelation of how much books mean to those in isolation.

“Canadian poetry and poets” were treated by W. D. Lighthall, in a sympathetic review, illustrated by short readings from some of the writers of the second generation of Canadian poets, among them Archibald Lampman, Wilfred Campbell, C. G. D. Roberts, Bliss Carman, and George Scott; while the final paper of the session was a study of “Canadian prose writers,” by Dr. S. E. Dawson, of Ottawa, whose brilliant and scholarly presentation of Canada’s literary history was listened to with deep interest and sincere appreciation.

The Cataloguers’ Round Table held an over-flowing meeting in the room assigned to it, under the direction of Anderson H. Hopkins, of the John Crerar Library. About 125 persons were in attendance, and there was a steady fire of discussion. No set programme had been

prepared, but a series of propositions submitted by prominent cataloguers had been roughly classified, and were written out on a large black-board. These were read, discussed on all sides, and votes taken to show the consensus of opinion. The propositions dealt with cataloguing of anonymous books, entry of society publications, books by several authors, different editions of the same books, titles of noblemen, and various other questions of technical detail. There was not time to dispose of all the subjects brought up in the crossfire of questions and answers, and the meeting adjourned after passing a resolution requesting that a section for the consideration of cataloguing and classification be established by the council of the A. L. A.—From the *Library Journal*.

(*To be continued.*)



LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS

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[*Communications for this column, which is not Editorial, should be signed, as an evidence of good faith, and marked "For Libraries and Librarians." Such signatures will not be published unless specially desired.*]

It has been calculated by an eminent statistician that the average annual holiday of the Library Assistant amounts to six weeks, made up as follows:—

Anticipation	...	...	2 weeks
Realization	...	...	2 weeks
Convalescence	...	...	2 weeks

Total 6 weeks

This is exclusive of Sundays, Bank Holidays, weekly half-holidays, bilious attacks, funerals, and surreptitious time-killing in the basement. When these other items are summed up and added it will be found that the average assistant, in the average Public Library, works just exactly thirty-six weeks per annum, which we regard as a fair measure of service for the remuneration received. But we shall gladly enlist ourselves on the side of the assistant who feels that *more* holidays are desirable, and should be prepared to advocate a twenty-six weeks' work-year, with twenty-six weeks' allowance for holidays and extras.

The librarian is slightly less over-worked, and his average annual holiday works out something like this:—

Anticipation	...	...	3 weeks.
Packing and clearing up	...	...	2 "
Realization	...	...	5 "
Convalescence	...	...	3 "
Retrenchment	...	...	2 "

Total 15 weeks.

When we add the following items, it will be seen that comparatively few Librarians can justly be accused of over-working themselves :—

Committee meetings and gossips	...	12 weeks.
Seeing visitors and friends	... ..	6 "
Writing articles for the "L.W."	... ..	12 "
L. A. Meetings (including transport there and back)	... ..	3 "
L. A. Conference	... ..	1 "
" " convalescence	... ..	6 "
Colds in the head	... ..	3 "
Cycling	... ..	6 "
Photographing	... ..	6 "
Sundays	... ..	9 "
Office reveries	... ..	26 "
Total		90 weeks.

Although ninety weeks per annum can hardly be deemed an extravagant allowance for holiday and recreation time, and compares favourably with other departments of the public service, such as railway signalling, rural postmanism, &c., there may be some difficulty in extending the time owing to the numerous important duties which have to be performed in the remaining part of the year. But this is a topic on which many librarians and assistants might like to enlarge—especially as this is holiday time, and the claims of the library are less urgent ; and we should be pleased to afford an asylum for any random jottings which may be contributed by our friends.

At a meeting of electors of **Rushall**, Walsall, on July 14th, the advisability, or otherwise, was discussed of adopting the Public Libraries' Act, 1892. After considerable discussion it was decided not to adopt the Act by nineteen votes to six.

A PUBLIC meeting was held at **Bridgend**, Wales, on July 5th, to take into consideration the advisability, or otherwise, of adopting the Free Libraries' Act. It was moved that the Act be adopted, discussed, and the motion was carried unanimously.

MR. HERBERT **Jones**, secretary to the Kensington Public Library Commissioners, was standing one night outside the library in Kensington High Street, with his wife and son, waiting for a 'bus. Seeing a London General omnibus approaching, Mr. Jones ran forward and called upon the driver, John Lockwood, to stop. He refused to do so, and Mr. Jones jumped on the 'bus, and asked the driver for his number, as he intended to report him. Lockwood refused to show his ticket. Mr. Jones called a constable and he asked several times for the driver's number, but he remarked that the 'bus number was good enough. The West London magistrate informed Lockwood that he was bound to show his badge every time required during his employment. For refusing to do this, a fine of 10s. and costs was inflicted. 'Bus drivers, take note !

THE Police Burgh of **Lockerbie**, Dumfriesshire, unanimously decided, on July 10th, to adopt the Public Libraries' (Scotland) Act. Mr. Andrew Carnegie will give £2,000 towards a building, and the funds of the Easton Institute will also be handed over. The total annual income of the library is expected to amount to £100.

MR. DAVID **Duff**, senior assistant in the Reference Department, Dundee, was presented with a handsome gold chain and seal and a purse of sovereigns on the occasion of his leaving to become Chief Librarian of the Ayr Free Public Library. On the seal was engraved the following inscription: "To David Duff (with a purse of sovereigns), on his appointment as Chief of Ayr Public Library, July, 1900, from the Committee and staff of the Albert Institute, Dundee, in recognition of twenty-two years' faithful service." The presentation was made by Mr. Kennedy, Convenor of the Committee, and short addresses were given by ex-Lord Provost M'Grady and Mr. Maclauchlan.

A PORTRAIT and notice of Mr. William **Crowther**, Chief Librarian and Curator, Derby Public Library and Museum, is published in the "Derbyshire Advertiser," for June 29th, 1900, in connection with the celebration of the twenty-first anniversary of the establishment of the library in its present handsome quarters.

ON July 4th a new library for **Upper Norwood** was opened by Mr. Alderman Foss, of Croydon, to serve the large district in the immediate neighbourhood of the Crystal Palace. The library is maintained jointly by Croydon and Lambeth, and was organised by Mr. Stobie, the librarian, aided by Mr. Jast, librarian of Croydon. The library is situated at the corner of Westow Hill and Beardell Street, and has a frontage on Westow Hill of 36 feet, and on Beardell Street of 79 feet. The entrance is at the corner of the two streets. On the ground floor are the lending library and news and magazine room. The library is fitted with shelves to contain about 8,500 volumes, and is lighted chiefly from the top, which, as the library is going to be managed on the open-access system, is a point of great importance. The counter and bookshelves are of pitch pine. The news and magazine room is in the rear, fronting Beardell Street, and removed from the noise of traffic in Westow Hill. It is 35 feet long, 28 feet wide, and is lighted by an octagonal lantern, and also by windows looking into Beardell Street. It is provided with newspaper stands to hold eighteen newspapers, and there is accommodation for forty-eight readers at the tables. The tables and newspaper stands are of pitch pine. On the first floor is a large room, 38 feet by 28 feet, with an open timber roof. This room will be available for readers and may hereafter develop into a reference library. All rooms used by the public are constructed of fire-resisting materials, and laid with pitch pine solid floors, and are warmed by low-pressure hot water. Gas is the method of lighting which has been decided upon, incandescent burners being used. Externally the building is faced with red brick, and the cornices and other architectural features are in artificial stone. Mr. Haslehurst was the architect.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE following preliminary announcement of the arrangements for the Bristol Meeting has just been issued :

Monday, September 24th.

Members arrive. Reception Room (Bristol University College) open from 3.0 p.m. to 8.0 p.m. Meeting of the Council at 5 p.m.

Tuesday, September 25th.

President's Address, at Bristol University College, at 10.0 a.m., followed by Papers and Discussions. Members will be received by the Chairman of Local Committee at 9.45 a.m.

Invitation Lunch to Members given by the Chairman of Local Committee, Alderman F. F. Fox, J.P., at 1.30 p.m.

Visit to Places of Interest and to Manufactories.

Conversazione at Bristol University College. Guests will be received by the Right Hon. The Lord Mayor of Bristol and Lady Ashman, and the High Sheriff of Bristol and Mrs. G. A. Wills, at 8.0 p.m.

Wednesday, September 26th.

Meeting at Bristol University College, commencing at 9.45 a.m., followed by Papers and Discussions.

Visit—by invitation of The Mayor—to Bath.

Smoking Concert at Bristol University College, at 8.0 p.m.

Thursday, September 27th.

Annual Business Meeting at Bristol University College, commencing at 9.45 a.m., followed by Papers and Discussions.

Invitation Lunch to Members, given by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor and the High Sheriff of Bristol, at 1.30 p.m.

Visit to Places of Interest and to Manufactories.

The Library Association Dinner, at 7.30 p.m.

Friday, September 28th.

Excursions.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA.

AT the close of the last meeting of the Library Association of Australasia, which was held in Sydney in October, 1898, it was resolved :—1. That the next meeting of the Association be held in Adelaide. That the following executive officers be elected :—President—Rt. Hon. S. J. Way, Chief Justice of South Australia,

President of the Board of Governors of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery of South Australia. Hon. Secretary—Mr. J. R. G. Adams, Librarian of the Public Library of South Australia. Hon. Treasurer—Mr. J. P. Morice, Librarian of the Parliamentary Library of South Australia.

An organizing Committee to arrange for the Adelaide meeting of the Association has been appointed, consisting of representatives of the Public Library of South Australia, the Library of the University of Adelaide, the Parliamentary Library of South Australia, the Library Association of Australasia, and the Institutes' Association of South Australia.

It has been decided that the meeting in Adelaide shall take place on October 9th, 1900, and three following days.

His Excellency the Governor of South Australia (Lord Tennyson, K.C.M.G.) has been pleased to extend his patronage to the Association.

The Government has promised to afford liberal assistance, and every effort will be made to secure for the Adelaide meeting a result equal to that of the Sydney meeting, which was pronounced a great success.

The Council of the University of Adelaide has consented to the Elder Hall of the Conservatorium of Music being placed at the disposal of the Association for its opening conversazione and loan exhibition.

The Managers of the Library Supply Company and the Library Bureau have been invited to send exhibits of library appliances. It is hoped that these appliances will be forwarded, so that librarians may have an opportunity of inspecting and purchasing useful library accessories, which are so essential to the systematic performance of their duties.

Loans of old and rare books, manuscripts, engravings, and articles of historic value are solicited. These will be exhibited, and will interest alike the book collector, book lover, antiquarian, and librarian.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE Summer Meeting was held on Friday, July 6th, at Malvern. A drive from Malvern Link Station to the ancient British encampment, near the southern end of the Malvern range, occupied the earlier part of the afternoon, affording an opportunity of viewing the glorious panorama extending over several counties from the height at which the roads on both sides of the range are constructed. The members explored the camp hill, and, after tea, returned to Malvern, some ascending the Worcestershire beacon (the highest point of the range) and others preferring the easier task of walking from St. Ann's Well across the eastern side of the North hill. There were present members representing the Birmingham, West Bromwich, Aston, and Worcester Public Libraries.

NORTH MIDLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE Summer Meeting was held on Thursday, June 28th, at Darley Dale, Derbyshire. There was a good attendance of members—librarians and library assistants—from the counties of Nottingham, Derby, and Lincoln. The Whitworth Institute, with its library and museum, was visited, as was also the parish church, with its antiquities and famous yew tree. No Papers were read. Tea was partaken of in the grounds adjacent to the Institute. A very pleasant half-day was spent.

THE PSEUDONYMS.

OWING to the relaxing nature of the season it has been found impossible to do more than compile the following graphic description of the last two rambles.

May Ramble :—

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July Ramble :—

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Members will please accept this as an accurate hieroglyphic record.



REVIEW.

MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION.—Report * * * Tenth Annual General Meeting, held in Brighton, July 3rd to 6th, 1899. *Edited by E. HOWARTH, F.R.A.S., F.Z.S.* London, Dulau & Co., 1900.

AS some librarians are associated with museum work by their official position, and many more are interested in Natural History, Art, or Archæology, we notice the issue of this volume, which makes a worthy memorial of the completion of the first decade of the existence of the Museums Association.

We note the intention of the Association to publish a monthly journal, in which to embody the papers read at the Annual Congresses with other matter. Though wishing such a publication success, we doubt whether it is not an advantage to have the papers *en bloc*, as in this publication, rather than scattered through a year's magazines.

This volume contains the papers read at the Congress at Brighton, in July, 1899, together with a record of the proceedings, notices of Museum Reports, and reviews of publications.

Space will not allow us to notice the papers in detail, but we must mention Mr. H. Willett's capital address, with which this volume opens, divided into two sections—"What museums are or ought to be," and "Our own local museum" (Brighton). Incidentally he urges the importance of collections of local rather than general material, and the exclusion of articles which are of no earthly interest to anyone beside the donors. Two points on which we fully agree with him, as also, to an extent, with the sentences on *classification*.

"Classification is not and never can be one of the exact sciences. Its boundaries are as various as the configurations of the shores of the sea. Its divisions are, at the best arbitrary, and widen or change with the enlargement of discovery."

At the same time, the museum wherein the classification is most attended to gives us the greatest pleasure.

Mr. B. Lomax writes on the "Exhibition of Living Plants," which we take it should rather be "of cut wild flowers"—a most interesting feature which we first saw some years ago in the little museum on the Pantiles at Tunbridge Wells, and subsequently at the Epping Forest Museum at Chingford. Properly labelled and *frequently renewed* such an exhibition is sure to afford interest. At Chingford a further development was provided in the exhibition of specimens of the forest moths, butterflies, &c., of the season.

Valuable suggestions as to the recording of "Archæological Evidences," such as pre-historic earthworks, burial mounds, &c., are contained in the paper by Mr. Harlan I. Smith, of New York. Mr. T. V. Hodgson gives a detailed account of his work at the Plymouth Museum. Mr. B. H. Mullen, of Salford, deals with statistics. Mr. R. Quick speaks of practical matters in museum arrangements.

Good illustrations are provided to Mr. S. Culin's paper on the "Museums of North Germany," also to Dr. Sorby's notes on the "Preservation of some Marine Animals," but the most attractive pictures are those of specimens in the "Booth Bird Museum," illustrative of a paper by Mr. A. F. Griffith.

Mr. E. Howarth's valuable notes on the "Sheffield Museum and Art Gallery" should be carefully studied, as, indeed, should other contributions which we regret space forbids us to mention.

MR. WILLIAM **Osborn**, Librarian Durham Public Library, Natal, on being summoned on a jury, challenged the right of the overseers to place his name on the jury list, on the ground that he ought, as a public servant, to be exempt from service. He argued the point with the judge, who refused to grant exemption, but Mr. Osborn was released on the challenge of a lawyer present. It would be very interesting to know if any English librarians are freed from jury duties on the ground that they are public officials.

SOME CORNISH LIBRARIES.

By JAMES D. BROWN, *Librarian, Clerkenwell Public Libraries, London.*

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A PILGRIMAGE to West Cornwall can be heartily recommended to any librarian in search of rest, fresh air, and complete change from the monotony of town life. Here he will find abundance of interest and novelty in connection with the habits and customs of the ancient Britons still extant, and derive many impressions of pleasure from the magnificent rock scenery with which the coast abounds. Dairy-farming, tin-mining, pilchard fishing, druidical monuments, and wild flowers can also be studied with profit; and even Public Libraries, in a condition of arrested development not uncommon in other districts of England. Cornwall is pre-eminently the county for Public Libraries. Geographically it is remote from the populous parts of England, and the Great-Western Railway Company, with commendable forethought, have taken enormous pains to maintain this seclusion by a most pitiful and inadequate service of trains. I was once assured by the Public Librarian of Penzance that no thief would ever raid his institution, for the simple reason that it was impossible to get away quick enough to avoid detection! A place thus difficult to get away from, is manifestly one which requires strong home interests to make it attractive, and, as theatres, music halls, and other light diversions, find little favour in Cornish towns, the Public Library, with its wealth of varied reading, is practically the only after-dark resource left. But there are other circumstances which make Cornwall an ideal county for a liberal provision of Public Libraries. The decline of the mining industry has driven many of the men away to other centres, such as South Africa, and it is well-known that, at the present time, more money is coming into the county from exiled sons abroad than is being made locally. There is thus an enormous surplus of that great natural reader—woman—and to her should be offered in profusion plenty of romantic and other reading as a solace and compensation for the loss of her natural companion—man.

Again, the aspect of the country, as may be observed at leisure from the windows of the Great Western express trains—which stop at every station for ten minutes while the engine regains its breath after the tremendous rush from the last stopping place—is strongly suggestive of desolation. Abandoned tin mines crowd both sides of the railway at some points, giving rise to all kinds of melancholy reflections in the mind of the observer; while the frequent sight of a lonely chimney-stack standing on a bleak hillside, like the finger of fate pointing heavenward, is enough to suggest to any practical mind the need for palliative measures of some sort. The same thought seems to have occurred to at least two eminent Cornishmen, the late Mr. Octavius Allen Ferris, a native of Truro, and Mr. J. Passmore Edwards, whose

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services in the cause of the library movement require no eulogy from me. Mr. Ferris left about £10,000 to be distributed equally among the West Cornish Libraries of Truro, Penzance, Camborne, Redruth and Falmouth, and his action had a powerful effect on the library movement in the district. Mr. Edwards then came along with his gifts of buildings, charged with the healthy condition that the Libraries' Acts must be adopted in order to secure public support and government for the institutions, and the result is that Cornwall has most of its large towns provided with libraries under the Acts. My rambles only led me to Penzance, St. Ives, Camborne, and Redruth, but in each place I found much of interest and some matter for reflection. For various reasons it is not desirable to select for special mention what I observed in any single library: my remarks being rather general than otherwise. What I have already stated with regard to the provision of books in a countryside to some extent abandoned by its male inhabitants, and largely isolated from more active centres of life and human interests, applies with considerable force to some of the libraries I visited. At one library in particular I found the provision of books very slight indeed, and quite insufficient for the needs of the town and the expectations aroused by the fine building in which they were housed. I found a Cotgreave Indicator for 4,000 volumes in the corner of a little lobby, with about one-fourth of its numbers appropriated for books, the remaining three-fourths being used as a screen on which to hang notices. The shelves were woefully bare and empty, and for economical reasons the lending department was only open from two to three hours occasionally. Only two rooms in the handsome building presented by Mr. Passmore Edwards were occupied for library purposes; the upper portions, containing the finest rooms, being appropriated by the Council for municipal meetings. At other towns containing these Passmore Edwards Libraries I found the same state of affairs. In no case was any building used entirely for the purpose for which it was intended. In one instance the upper rooms were let for an educational purpose; in another, the Council had appropriated the best room; and some rooms were standing empty. I have not ascertained if in any case the Town Councils pay any rent for the accommodation thus monopolized. It is quite easy to supply reasons for this state of affairs, which, in my opinion, must militate greatly against the libraries and the public use which can be made of them. In the first place, the Passmore Edwards libraries are out of all proportion to the needs of any of the towns I visited, and certainly too large to be properly maintained out of incomes ranging from £60 to £150 per annum. Under normal conditions of administration it would cost the whole of the library rate in some of the smaller towns to provide adequate gas-lighting for such large buildings, let alone meeting the other costs of administration, such as salaries, cleaning, books, newspapers, binding, &c. The effect of these inadequate funds is seen on every hand, but more particularly in the meagre supply of books and small staffs, which are both factors closely affecting the convenience of readers. Without the first, readers cannot get the quantity and quality of reading which their environment

demands, and without the second, they are compelled to make their library visits dependent upon the librarian's meal hours. In many other ways, which need not be specified, numerous hardships and inconveniences have to be endured in these little Cornish towns, by readers, committees, and librarians alike, owing to the funds available being ridiculously disproportionate to the size of the institutions to be maintained. It is all the world like a clerk earning 30/- weekly being asked to maintain an unfurnished palace in Grosvenor Square out of his wages, and still show a favourable balance!

Another reason for the starved condition of the Cornish Passmore Edwards libraries lies in the fact that, as in all small towns, a penny rate is insufficient to meet public requirements in a complete and satisfactory way. Everyone who has studied the financial aspect of the free library question must have seen that small towns require much larger rates in proportion, than do large towns. But, as a general rule, this fact seems only to have been recognized in Lancashire, where parliamentary sanction has been obtained by several small towns for increasing the amount of the library rate. While other small towns are in the position of cutting their cloth according to their garments, it is otherwise with the Cornish towns possessing Passmore Edwards buildings. Here, the whole of the rate must be devoted to the maintenance of enormous buildings, which, unfortunately, have not been endowed sufficiently either by Mr. Ferris or Mr. Edwards, with the result that nothing worth reckoning remains for the purchase of books. And what is a library without a constant stream of fresh literature?

It may appear presumptuous on the part of a mere stranger to suggest a remedy for the existing state of library affairs in West Cornwall, but after all, even the passer-by often sees things of this sort in a clearer light than do the actual participants. Well, in the first place, it seems to me that the Cornish people owe Mr. Passmore Edwards something for his generosity in freely providing fine library buildings, which would be creditable to even larger towns than those in which they are placed. They owe it to themselves also, as a clear duty, to make adequate provision for the maintenance of buildings they have accepted in trust for themselves and successors, and are under strict obligations to keep in proper order. Once awakened to the sense of this obligation, it should not be a difficult matter to procure the same parliamentary powers which have been obtained elsewhere for doubling the amount of the library rate. If these handsome buildings are worth anything at all, they are worth a penny rate for their maintenance in a trim and satisfactory condition. Another penny rate spent on administrative items only, would place the libraries in a very different position both as regards books and service. When people receive much for nothing, they gradually lose all sense of their own responsibilities, and when they accept such a gift as a public institution, they fall into the blunder of supposing that it can exist upon nothing. This is not the case. Even such an inorganic thing as a public monument in bronze requires occasional overhauling. Then much more does a Public Library, which possesses an interior organization, require fostering care and a fair

allowance of public money. It is my feeling on this point which restrains me from suggesting to Mr. Passmore Edwards that he should endow these institutions which he has called into being. He has already done more than his share in presenting buildings, and has a certain amount of right on his side in calling upon the people he has benefitted to take due care of his gifts. But there is another point which somewhat qualifies these remarks. In towns of small rateable value and population, very large buildings are out of place, and it might be considered perfectly proper to suggest that, if a donor gives an institution whose size is a formidable bar to its efficient maintenance, he should consider the advisability of making his gift completely effective by aiding the people to support it. If, therefore, each of the Passmore Edwards libraries could be endowed with Book Funds, amounting to say £100 each annually for ten years, Cornwall would by and by possess a series of libraries which would be more creditable to the fine buildings in which they are housed, and much more useful and worthy monuments to their donor's generosity than they are at present. The measure of a community's appreciation of any institution is to some extent to be estimated by the expenditure it is prepared to make in its support, and I make the suggestion that Mr. Passmore Edwards should endow all the Cornish Public Libraries as above, on condition that the ratepayers make a further contribution towards the library rate. In this way would be secured a degree of efficiency and completeness which, at present, it must be confessed, most of the Cornish libraries lack.

The following extract from the *Western Morning News* for August 20th fully bears out my statement as to lack of books and funds being a fatal impediment to healthy progress :— "Bodmin Passmore Edwards Free Library issued 4,198 volumes to 256 borrowers last year. The demand for books continually increases, and the committee appeals for gifts of works on history, travel, art, science and better class books."

A town with over 5,000 inhabitants ought, under ordinary conditions to show a very much better result than this, and as the same conditions exist at Launceston and elsewhere, it may be assumed that my views as to the connection between small funds and small results are amply justified.

And now a word as to the administration of the various Cornish libraries I was privileged to examine. In every case I found the librarians full of interest and enthusiasm for their work, suffering long hours and small stipends cheerfully in the cause of the public weal. Everything that could possibly be accomplished on the meagre funds available had been done, and orderly arrangements and cordial relations with readers were manifest in every case. In two libraries it seemed to me that unnecessary expense had been incurred in the provision of elaborate charging systems, and in another I found a method of issuing borrowers' cards which could only be justified on the score of poverty. In every other respect the libraries of Penzance, Redruth, and Camborne are intelligently and successfully managed. Penzance is in every respect the largest library in the county, and it occupies a building which was not provided by the generosity of Mr. Passmore Edwards.

The people of Penzance are proud of their library and make extensive use of it in all its departments, but particularly the lending library and reading room. The committee is fully alive to its responsibilities, and seems anxious to keep abreast with the latest developments of library work so far as straitened means will allow. In this laudable effort the committee is ably seconded by the librarian. At Penzance, in addition to the Public Library, there is the old Penzance Library, dating from 1818, which is a subscription library, fairly robust notwithstanding its age, and the danger, which sooner or later threatens all such foundations, of its dying from lack of support. This library of 22,000 volumes is one of the most valuable provincial collections I have seen. It has very little fiction, and the great bulk of its stock consists of fine standard works in good editions in every department of literature. From time to time it has received valuable special collections, such as the Halliwell-Phillipps library of early dramatic literature, and in this way has accumulated a remarkably good store of books possessing great interest and value for students and the general public. The collection of Cornish books is especially fine, and, in addition, the library contains many prints, paintings, and other works of art. On referring to the catalogue of this library compiled by Mr. Kinsman in 1874, I find that there is a grave danger of this fine library being ultimately lost to the public, on whose behalf many of the valuable gifts were undoubtedly given. A clause in the constitution of the library empowers a certain small number of surviving members to wind up the affairs of the institution by returning all gifts to the original donors or their living representatives, to sell the remainder of the books, and to give the proceeds to a scientific institute in Penzance. When this constitution was drawn up the municipal library did not exist, nor was it even in contemplation, so that it may have been considered the best course at the time to dispose of the library in certain contingencies, as above described, instead of providing for its continuance by amalgamating it with a vigorous Public Library. The immense loss to the people of Penzance in breaking up and scattering such a valuable public asset as this collection of books, seems never to have occurred to those who drafted this clause, and the danger exists now of such a disruption occurring should the library fall upon evil times and its membership become reduced to a very small number. In these circumstances it seems to me that it would be a wise measure, in order to preserve this splendid library for all time, to revise the constitution in the direction of making over the whole of the collection unreservedly to the Town Council of Penzance, should the necessity ever arise for closing the career of the institution as a subscription library. It would be a great calamity for Cornwall should this library ever be dispersed, and, I trust, means will be speedily found of making proper and wise provision for the future of the collection.

The usual plan of a librarian on holiday is to avoid libraries like the plague, but on this occasion I found myself so much interested in the peculiar circumstances in which most of the Cornish libraries are placed, that I thought it my duty to inflict a few notes upon the readers

of the *Library World*, in the hope that they may have the effect of directing more attention to an excessively interesting problem in library management. Apart from this, Cornwall is a county abounding in interest for the tourist-librarian, and anyone who cares to brave the boredom of crawling through the county at the tail of a leisurely Great Western engine, will find his reward in the fine scenery, equable temperature, and hospitable people of West Cornwall.



OPEN SHELVES AND BOOK-THEFT.

By ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK, *Librarian, Brooklyn Public Library.*

(From "*The Library Journal*," June, 1900).

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PROBABLY no innovation in library management has ever won its way so quickly to approval as the open access system. It has spread so rapidly, and has sprung into favour so universally, after the first gasp of incredulity that met it when it was originally brought forward, that of late its advocates have been treating it as a great natural fact, which it is as shocking to criticise as it would be to "speak disrespectfully of the equator."

Against any such attitude as this, reaction is sure to come, and all the more that there is a large body of conservative librarians who have always looked askance at the system, although temporarily struck dumb by the rapidity of its triumphant progress. As an advocate and friend of the system, I have always been chagrined at the difficulty of getting free critical discussion of it at library meetings, and have regarded the unanimous indorsements of it at such meetings as the result not so much of reasoned conviction as of dislike to be behind the times. A crowd that is all crying "hosanna" at once may always be looked upon with caution.

That the reaction is at hand is evident from such papers as that of Mr. Willcox, of Peoria, published in the March *Library Journal*. As is usual with reactions, the pendulum is allowed to swing beyond the equilibrium point, but, on the whole, his treatment of the subject is fair, although it is as strong an arraignment of the open shelf as could be made. This being the case, it is gratifying to find that it contains nothing more than has been familiar to all who have used the system. In only one point does he touch on something that has not been fairly treated by those of us who advocate and expect to maintain it. I refer to the matter of book-theft, and regarding that matter I desire to say a word.

Institutions that perform certain public services free can, it seems to me, always study with profit the methods of institutions that perform

similar services in the way of business. Both depend ultimately for their support on the public, but the latter do so more directly, and hence, if well managed, will respond more quickly to public opinion and public needs. Thus, public librarians who distribute reading-matter free of charge should not neglect to study the methods of the booksellers, who provide the public with books for money. The latter, in fact, were the pioneers in the open shelf system. Not so very long ago the person in a large city who wished to pass a pleasant hour with books, handling them and dipping into them, and making mental notes for future reading, went, not to the Public Library, but to one of the great book stores; in many cases he would go there still. There we find the open shelf almost absolutely without restriction. The objections to it are the same as in the case of a library—the increased wear, the disorder, the danger of theft. Yet the book store finds that the system is a profitable one, otherwise it would be abandoned at short notice. And since the profit of the book store depends directly upon the appreciation and patronage of the public, there is little doubt that in this case, as in that of the library, the public likes open access. The bookseller must freely acknowledge the objections to allowing the public access to his stock. He regards them partly as necessary evils, offset by the pecuniary advantages of the system, but at the same time he strives to minimise them as much as possible. The librarian must do likewise. While acknowledging the necessity of a certain amount of wear, disorder, and theft, he must train his public to habits of order, he must furnish trained assistants to aid in selection at the shelves, where such aid is needed, and he must strive in every way possible to detect and prevent dishonesty.

This is where the open shelf librarian has laid himself open to criticism. It is quite true, as Mr. Willcox says, that the attitude of some of us might well be interpreted as an encouragement to criminals. The fact is that the first attitude of a librarian toward theft, after he has opened his shelves to the public, is usually that of disbelief. He does not think that any more books will be stolen than under the old system. Then he takes an inventory and his eyes are opened. His feeling changes to dismay. The losses are vastly greater than any to which he has been accustomed. He says nothing about it, hoping that there is some mistake; that most of the missing books will "turn up." Then his conscience smites him. In the hope of soothing it he takes his pen in hand, and after figuring for a time he announces triumphantly that the loss is not so very great after all; that it is equal only to the salary of one or two assistants, and that it must be accepted as part of the regular course of things. This is the attitude to which exception is very properly taken. In the further mental evolution of the perplexed open shelf librarian it must presently be succeeded by another and a final stage; namely, a determination to take active measures for the reduction of loss by theft to the lowest possible limits, no matter what these may involve, and the conviction that as long as a stone is left unturned in this direction the whole duty of the librarian to the public has not been performed.

In what way, now, shall theft be prevented? The conservative librarians represented by Mr. Willcox propose a very effective way—the abolishment or large restriction of open access at least in libraries of any considerable size. But logic would require that, as there is still loss from circulation, the privilege of home use should next be withdrawn, and as even reference libraries suffer from theft a further step would be the total exclusion of the general public. This would carry us back to the Middle Ages by a road on which he who advocates giving up open access has taken a long step. Whenever the public is admitted to a privilege, its dishonest or mischievous members will surely abuse that privilege, and an extension of privilege means an increase of abuse. The remedy lies not in withholding the privilege but in preventing or limiting the abuse. When a city throws open its parks to the public there will always be those who will trample on the grass and steal the flowers. The city does not shut the park gates; it polices the park properly.

If we are to deal effectively with theft in open shelf libraries, we must police our libraries properly. The regular assistants must use constant vigilance, but besides this the aid of special watchers, detectives and members of the police force must be used when necessary. Why should the librarian be afraid of this, or why should the public object to it? Does anyone feel aggrieved that the watchful eye of a park policeman is upon him as he enters the city's pleasure ground? Does anyone refuse to patronize a department store because detectives in plain clothes are everywhere on the alert to prevent shoplifting? Why should not the librarians say boldly: "There is theft here, and we are bound, so far as possible, to prevent or detect it"? The law and its enforcement are terrible only to evil doers. Which would the user of a library rather have at his elbow, a book-thief or a detective? Probably the latter, unless he is a book-thief himself. It may be unfortunate that we must offer him so unattractive an alternative, but apparently thus it must be.

The librarians of this country are going to stand by the open shelf system, but they will make a great mistake if they interpret this to mean that they must ignore all criticism of it and shut their eyes to its faults instead of doing all in their power to mend them.



BOOK SELECTION AND ANNOTATION.

WE are glad to be able to announce that arrangements are now being made for carrying out the scheme for selecting, cataloguing and annotating new books, proposed in our August number. Assurances of interest and support have already been received from leading publishers, and it is hoped to formulate and carry out a scheme in a very short time which shall be mutually beneficial to both librarians and publishers, without conflicting with any other interests.

GRIEVANCES OF A FREE LIBRARY READER. TWO REJOINDERS.

I. *By* FREDERIC ANSTEE.

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TO everyone connected with Free Library work the person known as the "grumbler" is a familiar figure. This estimable ratepayer—he is always a "ratepayer," by-the-bye: he tells you so—is one of those people who could have improved the creation, provided he had been present on that great occasion.

I do not say that Mr. Horace J. O'Brien is one of this objectionable minority, although his formidable list of grievances would naturally lead one to suppose so. If he has not deliberately exaggerated, the kindest inference to draw is that his experience of Public Libraries has been exceptional and unfortunate.

A librarian at his duties, to paraphrase Mr. O'Brien's description, is an automaton; a soulless machine; or a man oppressed with *ennui*, and so suffused with inertia that it has penetrated into the very marrow of his bones. I have worked in a few libraries and visited many, and I do emphatically say that the notion that a librarian performs the routine of his office as though dispensing a charity, is one that is as gross an exaggeration of actual truth as it is far from actual fact.

A librarian proud of his calling would never send an inquirer empty away; he would feel that the whole fabric of his means of existence was built on a bed of sand, besides knowing that the episode would be a serious reflection on his professional ability. And these men are by no means as rare as a first folio of Shakespeare. There are many living within a radius of two miles or so of where I am at present writing, who would bear appreciative testimony to Mr. O'Brien to the effect that Free Libraries are indeed the places that the "eminent gentlemen who declare Free Libraries open to the public" represent them to be, and that kindly help on the part of chief and staff is generally to be had for the asking by those who really need it.

To pass on to Mr. O'Brien's list of grievances. Curiously enough, his first point, cataloguing, touches a topic that has been the subject of recent and bitter controversy. I did not know the outside public interested itself in technical matters concerning library practice, and, were it not that Mr. O'Brien definitely states his calling to be journalism, I should be inclined to think that his intimate knowledge, particularly in some of his grievances, betrayed a familiarity for which a mere bowing acquaintance could not account. The catalogue entry he quotes certainly needs a note. But there is another side to his argument. To a man who *wants* the "Recollections" of Thomas Frost, an annotation would be superfluous, and a waste of valuable space. He already knows that Frost's "Recollections" will be those of a Victorian journalist.

The person who does *not* want Frost will inevitably pass the entry by, however full of information it may be. It is of no interest to him.

The rule regarding the changing of a book being limited to once a day is one that exists, I believe, in most Public Libraries. Its first use is to prevent certain troublesome borrowers becoming a nuisance, both to the assistant and to the public. My experience is, however, that a request for exchange from a genuine seeker after knowledge of the type instanced by Mr. O'Brien is always courteously acceded to.

Mr. O'Brien puts his finger on the admitted weakness of the ledger system of issuing books. He says books that are returned are unavailable for immediate issue owing to their not being marked off. This is perfectly true. Mr. O'Brien says there would be about fifty or a hundred volumes lying idle, which is probably very much underestimated. Would Mr. O'Brien like to wait until they are all marked off before getting his book? I doubt not, especially as in another sentence he complains about waiting his turn to get served! Is Mr. O'Brien of such great importance that he expects to be treated better than others in our little democracy of letters? Or would he like to be met on the steps of the particular institution he honours, and, to the sound of a fanfare of trumpets, be humbly asked if it pleased His—— (whatever his particular form of address may be) to deign to glance at a selection of what he might, or might not want, presented in a suitable form for his inspection?

And now a word on Mr. O'Brien's case against the periodicals found in newsrooms. In his introduction Mr. O'Brien says that when he read a certain "eloquent and persuasive" address delivered by an eminent statesman on the occasion of the opening of a Free Library, he became convinced on the spot that if a terrestrial paradise existed anywhere, it was within the walls of a Free Library, where one could browse at will among the great thinkers of all ages and races. Here Mr. O'Brien voices a commendable sentiment. He is interested in the only work that is unperishable, the writings of men of supreme intellect, of fascinating and ennobling thought. Now note his suggestion for making newsrooms more as they ought to be. Instead of buying professional journals such as, I presume, the "Engineer," the "Electrician," the "Building News," &c, magazines in numbers from "three to twelve" of the "Strand," "English Illustrated" and "Harmsworth" type are to be substituted, and the true seeker after knowledge, the very man for whose benefit the Free Library was primarily established, is to get none of the advantages it is the business of a Free Library to give: he is to give place to the lounge who seeks to kill an idle hour with ephemera he reads only to forget. The light illustrated literature of to-day has killed the good solid reading of a generation ago. People wish now to be amused, not to be educated, and Mr. O'Brien would pander to the popular taste, forgetting that by so doing he administers the *coup de grâce* to an ideal of which he bitterly laments the hope of realisation has gone.

Mr. O'Brien objects to see the "Lancet" on a newsroom table. It is a very well-founded objection, to which there is a simple remedy. Periodicals of the same description, or any of more than ordinary value

can easily be issued from behind the counter, with a request that they be returned. Besides the advantage of the particular paper issued getting into proper hands, the condition of the paper itself after it has done its work is much better than if it had been allowed to toss about on the tables.

To conclude, Mr. O'Brien's grievances can scarcely be said to be all founded on fact. Perhaps he has wilfully exaggerated to further a cause to which he gives no name. His subsequent notes will no doubt discover to us his creed and object. A certain amount of friction is inevitable between the officials of Free Libraries and the public they do attempt to serve. Who does not know the borrower who flings down a penny on the counter and tells you he pays his fine only under compulsion? Minor details do go wrong sometimes, but, generally speaking, there is sufficient *esprit de corps* among librarians to make them jealously guard the good name of the profession to which they feel it is an honour to belong.

II. *By A PROVINCIAL LIBRARIAN.*

I have read with much interest, some indignation, and, I trust, with a modicum of profit, Mr. O'Brien's able, if somewhat furious attack on the public librarians of England which appears in the August number of the *Library World*. His intention is doubtless good, and his administration of a bitter draught is perhaps meant as a tonic which shall stimulate sluggish librarians to healthy action. In the main I can agree with him to a certain extent, but I must emphatically deny that his strictures are accurate or fair as regards many of the larger and more progressive libraries of the country. Mr. O'Brien is doubtless an Irishman, as his name implies, and possesses in full that exuberance of enthusiasm which moves men of his delightful nationality to impartially break every head coming within reach of their shillelaghs irrespective of reasons or cause of offence. It is only possible to account in this way for Mr. O'Brien's indiscriminating all-round belaboration of the English librarian. He may have been unfortunate in the libraries to which his destiny called him, or he may even be afflicted with the peculiar cast of mind which will condemn a whole structure because of one slight flaw, like the tourist who damned with faint praise the cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris, because some of the grotesque figures were chipped. However that may be, no one with any knowledge of English libraries will admit that his remarks have anything like a general application. I have had the privilege of visiting many English Public Libraries in my time, and my candid opinion is that each and all of them are doing an immense amount of *work*—good, bad or indifferent—on the most ridiculously inadequate means. This element—absence of funds—Mr. O'Brien discreetly glosses over, which is rather a pity, considering that destructive criticism is so cheap and easy, while suggestions for improvement in the hands of such an observer would be invaluable. Instead of denouncing our inadequate catalogues, meagre provision

of popular magazines, &c., Mr. O'Brien might have told us how small libraries with a total income of £100 or £200 per annum are to obtain such desiderata as well-educated librarians, intelligent assistants, descriptive catalogues, duplicate copies of popular magazines, or even mechanical substitutes for the somewhat ineffective system of issuing books he condemns. Instead of criticizing in a hostile spirit the good work being accomplished all over England in Public Libraries of every size, why does he not devote his acute brain to suggestions which will make for improvement, such as, for example, showing us how a sixpence can be made to go as far in purchases as a crown. This is the initial problem, and is the undoubted cause of most of the want of enterprise to which Mr. O'Brien alludes. I should like to ask Mr. O'Brien, or any other critic of public library work, if he would undertake to run a Public Library on the advanced and expensive lines which he advocates, on an income of say £500, which must suffice for salaries, books, periodicals, rent, rates, binding, printing, stationery, insurance, gas, coal, and all the other etceteras which make such a sum look like a veritable drop in a bucket? Is it reasonable to expect so much for so very little? Does any other branch of the municipal service give so much for a similar small expenditure? If so, perhaps Mr. O'Brien will give full particulars. Take the case of the small ratepayer in a provincial town paying about 8d. or 10d. per annum for his library. He forms one of a great majority, and for his small payment he enjoys advantages which could not be purchased with a thousand times the expenditure, if he tried to set up his own reading room, reference library and lending library. Defects there may be in the administration of English Public Libraries, but failure to give full value for the money expended is certainly not one of them. I have already agreed with Mr. O'Brien that his article contains a spice of truth, because there are incompetent men in library work as in all professions, but most of the faults mentioned are caused by want of means, and are not fairly attributable to the Public Library system itself. It is a pity Mr. O'Brien has not been a little more specific in his charges against our libraries and librarians. A general series of sweeping charges such as he makes must include progressive towns like Manchester, Cardiff, Newcastle, Bootle, Bradford, Leeds, Birmingham, Chelsea, Croydon, Lambeth, Clerkenwell, Bristol, and others equally well-known. If so, I should like Mr. O'Brien to state wherein these libraries are deficient in courtesy and attention to readers, cataloguing, supply of periodicals, or in any of the particulars specified in his indictment. Hints and suggestions from readers are always most valuable, and Mr. O'Brien's remarks, though rather strong and somewhat overstated, deserve the earnest consideration of all librarians. It is seldom a genuine reader takes the trouble to ventilate his grievances, real or imaginary, and it will be very interesting to have Mr. O'Brien's further complaints, if he has any, and also a word of praise if he has one to spare.



SEQUEL STORIES.

By THOMAS ALDRED, *Librarian, St. George-the-Martyr Public Library, London.* (Continued.)

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- SPIELHAGEN, F.**
Problematic characters
Through night to light
- STABLES, G.**
Cruise of the *Snowbird*
Wild adventures round the Pole
- STEVENSON, R. L.**
Kidnapped
Catriona (*Same as David Balfour*)
New Arabian nights
The dynamiter
- STEWART, A. M.**
Gerald
Eustace
- STINDE, J.**
Buchholz family
Buchholzes in Italy
- STOCKTON, F. R.**
Casting away of Mr. Lecks and Mrs. Aleshine
The Dusanates
Rudder Grange
Rudder Grangers abroad
Pomona's Travels
Captain Horn
Mrs. Cliffe's yacht
- STOWE, MRS. H. B.**
Uncle Tom's Cabin
Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin.
My wife and I
We and our neighbours
- STRATHESK, J. (John Tod)**
Bits from Blinkbonny
More bits from Blinkbonny
- SUE, E. LES SEPT PÉCHÉS CAPITAUX;—**
L'avarice
La gourmandise
L'envie
La colère
La luxure
La paresse
L'orgueil
- TOLSTOI, COUNT L. N. WAR AND PEACE**
series:—
Before Tilsit
The invasion
The French at Moscow
- TRACY, L.**
An American emperor
The lost provinces
- TROLLOPE, A. CHRONICLES OF BARSETSHIRE:—**
The warden
Barchester Towers
Doctor Thorne
Framley Parsonage
The small house at Allington
The last chronicle of Barset
- THE POLITICAL NOVELS include:—**
Can you forgive her
Phineas Finn
Phineas Redux
Eustace diamonds
Prime minister
Duke's children
- TROWBRIDGE, J. T. BRIGHT HOPE**
series:—
Old battle ground
Father Brighteyes
Hearts and faces
Ironthorpe
Burcliffe
- JACK HAZARD series:—**
Jack Hazard
Chance for himself
Doing his best
Fast friends
Young surveyor
Lawrence's adventures
- SILVER MEDAL STORIES:—**
His own master
Bound in honor
Young Joe
Pocket rifle
Jolly rover
- START IN LIFE series:—**
Start in life
Bidding his time
Kelp gatherers
Scarlet tanager

- TIDE-MILL series :—
 Phil and his friends
 Tinkham brothers tide-mill
 Satin-wood box
 Little master
 His one fault
 Peter Budstone
-
- Cudjo's cave
 Three scouts
- TURGENIEF, I. S.
 Dimitri Roudine
 A house of gentlefolk
- TWAIN MARK (S. L. Clemens). TOM
 SAWYER series :—
 Adventures of Tom Sawyer
 Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
 Tom Sawyer abroad
 Tom Sawyer, detective
- UPTON, F. K. & B.
 Adventures of two Dutch dolls and
 a "Golliwogg"
 The Golliwogg's bicycle club
- VERNE, JULES (—M. Olchewitz). CAPT.
 HATTERAS series :—
 English at the North Pole
 Field of ice (*Same as Ice desert*)
- GIANT RAFT series :—
 800 leagues on the Amazon
 The cryptogram
- KÉREBAN, THE INFLEXIBLE series :—
 Captain of the *Guidara*
 Scarpante, the spy
- MOON series :—
 From the earth to the moon
 Round the moon
- MYSTERIOUS ISLAND series :—
 20,000 leagues under the sea
 Dropped from the clouds
 Abandoned
 Secret of the island
- NORTH AGAINST SOUTH series :—
 Burbank the Northerner
 Taxar the Southerner
- STEAM HOUSE series :—
 Demon of Cawnpore
 Tigers and traitors
- VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD series :—
 New Zealand
 South America
 Australia
- WALDY, F. H.
 Bonnie Editha Copplestone
 Frolic
- WARD, MRS. HUMPHRY.
 Marcella
 Sir George Tressady
- WARNER, C. D.
 A little journey
 Golden House
 That fortune
- WARNER, S.
 What she could
 Opportunities
 House in town
 Trading
-
- Melbourne House
 Daisy
 Daisy in the field
-
- Giving honour (*containing Little camp and Willow Brook*)
 Giving service (*containing Sceptres and crowns and Flag of truce*)
 Giving trust (*containing Bread and oranges and The rapids of Niagara*)
- WARNER, S. and A. B.
 Wych Hazel
 Gold of Chickaree
- WENTWORTH, W.
 Kibboo Ganey
 Drifting island
- WESTALL, W.
 With the red eagle
 A red bridal
- WHITBY, B.
 Awakening of Mary Fenwick
 Mary Fenwick's daughter
- WHITEING, R.
 The island
 No. 5, John, St.
- WHITNEY, MRS. A. D. T.
 A summer in Leslie Goldthwaite's
 life
 We girls
 Real folks
 Other girls
- WIGGIN, K. D. (*now Mrs. Rigg*)
 A summer in a canon
 Polly Oliver's problem
-
- A cathedral courtship
 Penelope's experiences in Scotland

- WINTER, JOHN STRANGE (Mrs. H. E. V. Stannard) BLANKHAMPTON series :
 In quarters
 On march
 Army society
 Garrison gossip
 Beautiful Jim
 The other man's wife
 The soul of the bishop
- BOOTLES' series :—
 Cavalry life
 Regimental legends
 Bootles' baby
 Houp-la
 Pluck
 Mignon's secret
 Mignon's husband
 Bootles' children
 Ferrers Court
 Major's favourite
 A born soldier
 A blameless woman
 Heart and sword
- WINTHROP, T.
 John Brent
 Love and skates
- WOOD, MRS. HENRY.
 The Channings
 Roland Yorke
- Mildred Arkell
 St. Martin's Eve
- House of Halliwell
 Red Court Farm
- JOHNNY LUDLOW. *Five series.*
- WOODROOFE, MRS. A. T.
 Michael Kemp
 Michael, the married man
- WORBOISE, E. J. (Mrs. Guyton).
 Mr. Montmorency's money
 Emilia's inheritance
- Grace Hamilton's schooldays
 Kingsdown Lodge
- WRIGHT, M. O.
 Tommy, Anne, and the three hearts
 Wabeno, the magician
- YONGE, C. M.
 Daisy chain
 The trial
- Chaplet of pearls
 Stray pearls
 Release
- ZOLA, ÉMILE.
 ROUGON MACQUART series :—
 La fortune des Rougon (The fortune of the Rougons)
 La curée (In the swim, *same as* Rush for the spoil)
 Le Ventre de Paris (The fat and the thin)
 La faute de l'abbé Mouret (Abbé Mouret's transgression)
 Son excellence Eugène Rougon (His excellency)
 L'Assommoir (The dram shop)
 Une page d'amour (A love episode)
 Nana (Nana)
 Pot-bouille (Piping hot)
 Au bonheur des dames (Ladies' paradise)
 La joie de vivre (How jolly life is !)
 Germinal (Germinal)
 L'Œuvre (Masterpiece)
 La terre (The soil)
 Le rêve (The dream)
 La bête humaine (The human beast)
 L'argent (Money)
 La débâcle (The downfall)
 Le docteur Pascal (Dr. Pascal).
- THREE CITIES series —
 Lourdes
 Rome
 Paris
- ANON. THE CHEVELEY NOVELS :—
 Saul Weir
 Modern minister
- ANON. (? By Kampe or Wyss)
 Swiss family Robinson
 Willis, the pilot
- ANON.
 Dulcie's little brother
 Dulcie and Tottie
 Dulcie's love story



AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

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TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL MEETING, MONTREAL,

(Continued from page 288.)

The afternoon session was opened at 2.30 by a helpful practical talk on "Photographs and photo prints," by C. A. Cutter, who gave many suggestions on the collection, arrangement, and use of such art material. Then came perhaps the most important feature of the meeting—the special session on "Co-operative cataloguing," in which the plans of the co-operation committee were to be presented and discussed. Dr. E. C. Richardson presided during the session, as vice-president and as chairman of the co-operation committee, and introduced the subject with a general summary of the plans so far developed. The report of the co-operation committee, as printed in advance, was read, and the various recommendations contained therein were discussed. The report dealt with various co-operative plans and enterprises, but its chief feature was its formulation of a scheme for the co-operative cataloguing of books for libraries. To this end the committee recommended that the A. L. A. appoint a special committee on cataloguing rules, including subject headings, and that it form under the direction of the Publishing Section "a bureau for the co-operative cataloguing and printing of cards under guarantee, which bureau shall undertake to catalogue promptly or to provide for the cataloguing of all books referred to it by co-operating libraries, shall print cards for the same and also any titles sent to it by co-operating libraries, shall keep on file electrotypes of these titles for printing titles to order for libraries in general, shall publish regularly or from time to time a list of the titles in type or to be printed, and may print other material as it may seem fit, and shall be under the direct administration of an officer of the Publishing Section and the librarians of the guaranteeing libraries." The reading of the report was followed by a statement on the "Adjustment and organization" necessary to secure practical success, by W. C. Lane; by a "Report on cost," by C. W. Andrews; and a "Report in cataloguing rules," by Miss A. B. Kroegeer, to which Miss Nina Browne added a few practical suggestions resulting from her experience with the co-operative cataloguing work of the Publishing Section. The whole subject was then discussed with an evident intention of considering a condition rather than a theory, and with a degree of enthusiasm that seemed to show that time was ripe for co-operative effort on a larger scale than has yet been attempted. A show of hands was taken several times to determine how many libraries were prepared to aid either in guaranteeing the enterprise, or to subscribe to the cards, provided they might secure and pay only for those actually desired. To the former question over a dozen gave assent; to the latter there were fifty or more subscribers. The recommendations contained in the report were approved and referred to the

council for direct action, and the session closed with a frequently expressed conviction on the part of those in attendance that the A. L. A. had taken a decisive step toward co-operation on a broad and practical scale.

Monday evening was given up to a formal reception tendered to the Library Association by the governors, principals, and fellows of McGill University. There was a large attendance, and the MacDonald engineering building was brilliant with lights, and richly decorated with flags and bunting. Here the guests were received in the student's reading-room by Principal and Mrs. Peterson and Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Fleet, and here they experienced again the cordiality of Canadian hospitality. The galleries and corridors and the various departments were visited and admired, and the evening will be long remembered in the social records of the Association.

SIXTH DAY.

Tuesday was the "last day," and its annals are short and simple. The polls were open from 9 to 10.30 a.m., and at the latter hour the meeting was called to order by President Thwaites for final business and announcements.

The result of the election was announced by the tellers as follows : *President*, Henry J. Carr ; *1st vice president*, Ernest C. Richardson ; *2nd vice president*, Mrs. S. C. Fairchild ; *Secretary*, F. W. Faxon ; *Treasurer*, Gardner N. Jones ; *Recorder*, Helen E. Haines ; *Trustee of the Endowment Fund*, George W. Williams ; *Council*, C. H. Gould, Caroline M. Hewins, Frank P. Hill, James K. Hosmer, George Iles, Herbert Putnam, Katherine L. Sharp, Charles C. Soule, James L. Whitney. After a few announcements regarding the post-conference trip, the meeting was declared adjourned, subject to the call of the chair, this being a remarkable exception to most conferences in the fact that no unfinished programme remained for consideration at the end.

Tuesday afternoon was given up to libraries, to churches, and the Mountain, and to the other "points of interest" indicated in the useful guide books issued by the local committee. Invitations to visit the fine private art galleries of Hon. Senator Drummond, Sir William Van Horn, and Mr. James Ross, had been extended to the Association, and many members enjoyed the beautiful paintings in these rich collections. In the evening there began a post-conference trip that must long stand unequalled for beauty, for variety, for pleasant conditions, and for ever-deepening interest. Two steamers carried the largest post-conference party in the history of the Association from Montreal down the St. Lawrence past Quebec and up the Saguenay. Chicoutimi, Tadousac, Murray Bay were visited, and there was a day and a night at Quebec, to crown the journey ; while for a goodly number a trip to Burlington and down Lake George closed a conference that must always be marked with a white stone in the memory of those who shared in it.

(From "THE LIBRARY JOURNAL," June, 1900.)

THE LIBRARY STAFF.

O O O

EDITED BY A LANCASHIRE LIBRARIAN.

Registration of Borrowers. ALTHOUGH it seems a simple enough matter to keep a register of the borrowers attached to a Public Library, yet it is doubtful if any process has been more experimented with or produced more complications. The very numbering of borrowers in some libraries is a deep and awful mystery, especially to readers, who find it hard to understand why they should be numbered 25,000 in 1899 and only 9 in 1900. But we do not intend to pursue this aspect of a fascinating subject at present. The object of borrowers' registration is, in the first place, to obtain an accurate record of persons entitled to use the library, and to be able to trace them easily either by their names or numbers. In the second place it is desirable to know for statistical and other purposes, how many persons are enrolled at a given time. But, generally speaking, the first object is the most important. Now, in olden times, this registration was accomplished thus : First.—The borrower filled up an elaborate quarto voucher form, which was duly signed by a certified ratepayer or ratepayers. Second.—This, when checked and passed was made the basis of a number of separate records, of which one was the Borrower's Ticket. Third.—The vouchers were then posted up into a huge numerical register in book form. Fourth.—They were indexed alphabetically under borrowers' names in another huge register in book form. Fifth.—They were then most likely bound up in volumes ; and, probably, Sixth.—A register of guarantors was also compiled. Modern practice has reduced this elaboration to three simple processes. First, the borrower fills up a simple card instead of a large voucher form, it may be like this :—

ATKINS, THOMAS.

No. 5.

PUBLIC LIBRARY, NOMANSLAND.

I, Thomas Atkins, of 31, Cross Street, employed at 2, Back Row, being over 16 years of age, hereby make application to the Nomansland Public Library Committee for a Borrower's Ticket entitling me to borrow Books from the Lending Library, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations thereof, with which I hereby undertake to comply.

Date, June 26th, 1900.

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[OVER.]

On the reverse side is a form of guaranty, and, of course, a ratepayer signing on his own responsibility fills up a different card, perhaps of another colour.

Second.—From these cards are written the Borrower's Tickets, in the usual way, and when this is done, the voucher cards are simply filed away in trays in alphabetical order.

These trays are made in wood, covered in cloth, fitted with phosphor bronze rods and label holders. They hold 1,000 cards with 40 guide cards.

Third.—To get at the numerical side, all that is wanted is a book ruled thus :—

No.	1901	1902	1903	1904
1	J. BULL			
2	P. KRUGER			
3	J. RHODES			
4	L. CHUNG			
5	T. ATKINS			

Each new card receives from this book the first vacant number, and the name of the borrower is entered in the column under the date when his ticket expires. It is usual to give the month of expiry as well, but this may be dispensed with as the number book gives a direct reference to the Voucher Card Tray and *vice-versa*. But, if preferred, numbered cards can be used instead of a Number Book and arranged numerically. This answers the same purpose as the book, save that the information is not displayed in tabular form, and statistics are not so readily compiled. But this latter may be a blessing in disguise. Each borrower receives the same number till he drops out, when his number is transferred to a new borrower. The description of the Number Register system in "Greenwood's Library Year Book, 1897," is somewhat similar to this, only no mention is made of cards as a convenient substitute for the book form.

This system is the very essence of simplicity, and we strongly advise every librarian to give it a trial. It does away with elaborate books, and the awful necessity for keeping them up-to-date.

Assistants' Studies. LIBRARY COMMITTEES, or at least the majority of them, are beginning to realise that the post of librarian cannot be filled by anybody. Time was, when these posts were given to any old ratepayer or schoolmaster, in the belief that all that was required of a librarian was the ability to say whether a given

number was "in" or "out." I remember paying a visit to a library, the librarian of which had grown old in the service. The books were arranged in numerical order. A borrower entered the building and asked for number 306, which was the number of one of Corelli's novels. The librarian looked for the book, but, on failing to find it, brought 307, saying, "The book you asked for is out, but here is number 307." He had brought "The Descent of Man"! Could a stronger plea be put forward for assistants to strive and obtain for themselves the degree of common sense and intelligence so woefully lacking in this example of an "old and experienced librarian?" Assistants must endeavour, by study and perseverance, to prevent men like this from making a laughing stock of the library profession.

I am aware that few assistants would be foolish enough to make the same mistake as my friend above mentioned, but do they endeavour to become so well acquainted with their business as to make no mistakes? This mistake would never have occurred had the library been classified. Can *you* classify a library? If not, begin at once to study that difficult, I might say most difficult, part of a librarian's duties. When I recommend the study of classification to assistants, I do not intend them to overdo it. Study it until you feel you can speak about it before your professional brethren with confidence, but guard against being dogmatic.

It may be said by some that they have not the time necessary to enable them to become fully qualified. This is no reason why *nothing* should be done to improve matters. The absence of proper qualifications never seems to deter assistants from applying for positions in libraries, for which their ignorance makes them supremely unfit! There is an agitation on foot, just now, called the "Early Closing Movement." Somebody would like to see our Public Libraries close at seven p.m., or eight p.m., to enable assistants to devote more time to study and recreation. Some time ago our *over worked* assistants were asked by *The Library Association Record* and *The Library World* to send a return of the number of hours worked in their library, but no one replied. We must therefore assume that this movement had its origin in some other reason than an ardent desire for self-improvement on the part of either librarian or assistant.



LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS

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Communications for this column, which is not Editorial, should be signed, as an evidence of good faith, and marked "For Libraries and Librarians." Such signatures will not be published unless specially desired.

As there may be some librarians and assistants who have not seen the annexed advertisement, we give the text by way of proving that great rewards still await the librarian who perseveres and bides his time. A "well-educated" *caretaker* with a knowledge of "book-keeping or clerical work" is a *rara avis* in English library circles, but in South Wales, where every working man carries a professor's diploma in his breeches pocket, labour of this easy kind is no doubt cheap. We hope there will not be an indecent rush after this valuable appointment:—

"Applications are invited for the Appointment of Caretaker of the Public Reading-Room to be shortly opened at the Vestry Hall, Town Hall, Merthyr.

Applicants must be well educated, and be competent to give any necessary assistance in book-keeping or clerical work.

Applicants will be required to attend at the Vestry Hall daily from Nine a.m. to Ten p.m. (meal hours excepted), and the salary to be paid will be at the rate of 15s. per week.

Applications, stating age and full particulars, together with copies of not more than three recent testimonials, to be sent marked 'Caretaker,' on or before Tuesday, the 4th September."

AN important development of the work of the **Middlesborough** Free Library Committee took place on July 18th, when ex-Alderman Thomas Saunderson opened the branch reading-room at the old Town Hall. For several years this question of the establishment of branch reading-rooms has been under the consideration of the Committee and when, owing to certain re-arrangements carried out by the Corporation in respect to the housing of their officials, rooms became available at the old Town Hall, it was decided to procure these. The accommodation which has been provided will serve a most useful purpose in this thickly populated part of the town.

THE interesting experiment detailed below of giving the public access to the University Library of **Aberdeen** through the Public Library Committee, will, if fully carried out, be closely watched by other authorities:—

"That in order to enable the public to have the use of the University Library, the Public Library Committee enter into an arrangement with the University Library Committee on the basis of the proposals agreed

upon, generally, at a conference of representatives of the two parties held on 22nd February last, the arrangement being as follows, viz :—

(1) That those of the public desirous of having the use of the University Library shall obtain their borrowers' tickets for that purpose from the Public Library, subject to the same regulations as apply to the issue of borrowers' tickets for the Public Library itself, with this addition, that every intending borrower shall pay to the University, through the Public Library, a subscription of 5s., to be renewed annually with the renewal of the borrower's ticket—it being open to the University Library Committee to remit the subscription in such cases as they may think fit ; further that the privileges of the use of the University Library shall be subject to the regulations and bye-laws of the University Library, as approved by the University Court, and the issue of such borrowers' tickets shall be subject to the approval of the University Library Committee. (2) That the Public Library Committee undertake the issue of borrowers' tickets, receive subscriptions of 5s. from each borrower, and transmit them to the University authorities, and shall receive intimation from borrowers of books wanted from the University Library, and communicate these to the University Librarian ; further that the Public Library Committee undertake to recover from such borrowers all books borrowed by them from the University Library, or their equivalent. (3) That the University Library Committee grant to such borrowers access to the books and periodicals in the University Library, in both King's and Marischal Colleges, for purposes of consultation, and grant to every such borrower, on loan, at least two volumes at a time, if required, for the period allowed to borrowers, generally, from the University Library ; further that the University Library Committee, in addition to issuing books to borrowers from the library at King's and Marischal Colleges, undertake to deliver daily at Marischal College such volumes from the library at King's College as may have been asked for through Marischal College or the Public Library the previous day and are available for issue to borrowers."

THE **Earl of Crawford** was presented on August 8th with the freedom of the county borough of Wigan, in recognition of his gifts and services to the Wigan Public Library. The scroll of freemanship was contained in a handsome casket, which was presented in the Council Chamber by the Mayor, Mr. J. T. Gee. Lord Crawford signed the freemen's roll, and in returning thanks spoke of the old relations between his house and Wigan. His ancestor, Sir Roger Bradshaigh, was mayor of the town in 1661.

THE **Streatham** Library Commissioners have decided to perpetuate the memory of their late chairman, Sir Henry Tate, by placing a brass bearing the following inscription in a prominent position in the Public Library : "The 'Tate Library, Streatham. The Public Libraries' Commissioners desire to place on record in this Institution their appreciation of the gift of this building, and also of the public services rendered to the parish of Streatham by their late chairman, Sir Henry Tate, Bart., J. P."

THE **Cleethorpes** Urban District Council, who are contemplating the erection of a new technical institute on Isaac's Hill, resolved, on August 15th, to adopt the Public Libraries' Acts, 1892 and 1893, to come into operation in the district on and after September 17th next.

MR. F. MEADEN **Roberts**, Librarian, of St. George-in-the-East Public Library, was married on August 9th to Miss Emmeline Alice Longfield. Librarians, and particularly library assistants, will join in heartily congratulating Mr. Roberts, and in wishing him and his bride happiness and prosperity.

THE **Hornsey** Public Libraries' Committee have recently received from the Middlesex County Council the sum of £300 for the purchase of Technical Books. They have also received a grant of books in sheets to the value of £25 from the Delegates of the Clarendon Press. The Stroud Green Branch Library, of which plans appeared in the "Surveyor" of June 30th, is nearing completion, and the Committee have ordered the books and furniture, and appointed the staff for this branch. Mr. W. Harris, at present the Sub-Librarian at the Central Library, has been appointed the librarian, with residence, coal and gas, with two assistants at 10s. per week. Mr. H. G. Sureties, the present senior assistant, has been appointed sub-librarian, and the Committee having instructed Mr. Thos. Johnston, the Chief Librarian, to communicate with a number of selected libraries, with a view of obtaining applications for the post of senior assistant, Mr. Joseph Faraday, of the Bournemouth Public Library, has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

A pleasing ceremony was recently performed in the reading-room of the **Stoke Newington Public Library**, at the conclusion of the commissioners' monthly meeting, when the Rev. Prebendary Shelford, chairman of the commissioners, presented one of the staff with the honorary certificate of the Royal Humane Society, for saving life. The presentation was made to **Ernest Bliss**, a lad of fourteen, employed as evening assistant at the Library, who had saved a boy from drowning in the river Lea.

ON August 16th the **Ilford** District Council appointed a committee for the purpose of bringing up a scheme for the establishment of a free library for the district, which has a population of 50,000.

THE foundation stone of the West **Hampstead** Branch Library at Sarre Road, Mill Lane, was laid on August 2nd by Mr. E. S. Payne, chairman of the Libraries' Committee. The library, which will be the fourth provided by the Hampstead Vestry, will cost about £3,000, and will provide a commodious reading-room, magazine room and reference department, as well as accommodation for some 10,000 books in the lending department.

MR. CHAS. R. **Wright** has been selected to fill the post of librarian at the Accrington Free Library. He has had ten years practical experience of free library work, first at Northampton, and afterwards at Barrow. At Northampton Mr. Wright had charge of the reference

department of the library, which contains over 11,000 volumes, and these he classified and catalogued throughout. At Barrow he has, consequent upon the illness of his principal, for many months assumed practically sole control of the central library and two branch libraries also.

ON the motion of Alderman Fox, the **Bristol** Town Council has carried a resolution in favour of applying to Parliament for power to levy a 2d. rate for library and art gallery purposes.

THE foundation stones of new branches of the **Cardiff** Public Libraries at Roath and Grangetown were laid last month by the Mayor of Cardiff (Mr. S. A. Brain), in presence of a number of influential local gentlemen.

ON July 21st, the memorial stone of the new Central Public Library, **Hull**, to be erected in Albion Street, was laid by Sir James Reckitt, Bart., the chairman of the Public Libraries' Committee, in the presence of a large and representative gathering of those interested in the intellectual welfare of the city. The library, which, when built, is estimated to cost £7,500, will present a handsome front to Albion Street, the style adopted by the architect (Mr. J. S. Gibson, London) being a free treatment of the early Georgian. Apart from the reading-rooms and lending sections, the great feature will be a reference library, which the committee are determined shall be equipped befitting the Central Library of the city. It is destined to take the place of the temporary library in Baker Street, and will then complete—at any rate for the present—the structures which the Public Libraries' Committee have under their control, East Hull being supplied by the Reckitt Library, which, with perpetual endowment, Sir James Reckitt presented to the city; West Hull by the branch library erected in the Boulevard; North Hull by that next built on the Beverley Road, and now Central Hull by the permanent home now in course of erection in Albion Street.

ON Monday, July 23rd, the foundation stone of the new Central Library building for **Wolverhampton** was laid by the Duke of York. The building is from the designs of Mr. H. T. Hare, A.R.I.B.A., and is expected to be ready for occupation next year.

MR. BERTRAM L. **Dyer**, late of Kensington Public Libraries, and for a time secretary of the Library Assistants' Association, and editor of its journal, has been appointed Librarian of the Kimberley Public Library, South Africa. He left on August 4th to enter upon the duties of his appointment.



LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE programme of the Twenty-third Annual Meeting of the Library Association, to be held at Bristol from September 25th to 28th, has just been issued, and it agrees substantially with the preliminary announcement which we have already published, save that it may be noted as an additional feature that three separate excursions will be made on the Friday to (1) Wells and Cheddar, (2) Weston-super-Mare and Tyntesfield, and (3) Frome and Longleat.

The most extraordinary feature of this programme is the limitation of the time for reading and discussing practical subjects in librarianship to about *four hours*, throughout the entire Conference. Seven hours are set down on the programme, excluding about two hours for the annual business meeting, but when preliminaries, presidential address, thanks and compliments, and unpunctuality are reckoned, it will be found that even four hours is an excessive allowance. An annual conference extending over five days, which only devotes four or five hours to the discussion of improvements and topics in librarianship, the main object for which the Library Association was formed, and for which it holds a Royal Charter, is nothing more or less than a huge farce. We have not seen the list of papers which it is proposed to consider in this short time, but we can confidently predict that very few will have the slightest chance of being heard or adequately discussed. No provision has been made for an Exhibition of Library Work and Devices, consequently there will be no common rallying-place where librarians can meet to discuss practical topics. This useful and valuable feature has been dropped since the Buxton meeting in 1896, and we can only state that, in the opinion of most librarians, the Council is making a great mistake in suppressing everything of a practical nature connected with the Conference. We have been informed by librarians that it is becoming yearly more difficult to report to committees anything of a tangible or practical nature resulting from these Conferences, which can be held to justify the expense of sending delegates, and unless something is done to improve matters, and place the work of this Association on a sounder basis, it is quite evident that these annual picnics will have a fatal effect upon the prospects of librarianship. We cannot blame the local committees for providing abundant hospitality, but we must blame the Council of the L.A. for neglecting the interests of practical librarianship. It is true it has provided ample means for trouble at Bristol in a resolution apparently drafted for the purpose of making a special general meeting an impossibility, and also by circulating literature in advance of the Conference which is not calculated to soothe

a considerable number of members ; but these personal squabbles, for they are nothing else, have no connection with library work and interests. We confess, with sorrow, that the proceedings of this Association are not only quite petty as compared with the American Library Association, but they are completely overshadowed in interest, variety, and practical value by the arrangements made by the two-year-old Association of our Australasian brethren.

THE Annual Election of Members of Council took place on August 2nd with the following result :—

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Sir W. H. Bailey, Manchester ..	210	E. W. B. Nicholson, Oxford ...	178
F. T. Barrett, Glasgow ...	208	Alderman F. Fox, J.P., Bristol ...	176
C. W. Sutton, Manchester ...	203	T. W. Lyster, Dublin ...	176
P. Cowell, Liverpool ...	181	J. Potter Briscoe, Nottingham ...	162
G. K. Fortescue, London...	180	Rev. W. H. Milman, London ...	157
J. Passmore Edwards, London ...	179	Thomas Mason, London ...	150

Not Elected.

W. H. K. Wright, Plymouth ...	138	W. R. Douthwaite, London ...	103
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LONDON COUNCILLORS.

J. Y. W. MacAlister,	195	L. Inkster	151
J. H. Quinn	177	J. R. Boosé	133
F. J. Burgoyne ...	...	176	E. M. Borrajo ...	...	...	137
A. W. Pollard ...	...	165	C. T. Davis ...	...	...	129
J. D. Brown ...	...	161	Herbert Jones ...	...	...	111
W. E. Doubleday ...	...	157	H. D. Roberts ...	...	...	103

Not Elected.

T. Aldred ...	...	92	J. Frowde ...	...	...	77
S. Martin ...	...	92	A. Clarke ...	...	...	64
E. Foscett ...	...	91				

COUNTRY COUNCILLORS.

J. Ballinger, Cardiff ...	...	190	W. E. A. Axon, Manchester ...	...	161
H. T. Folkard, Wigan ...	...	183	T. W. Hand, Leeds ...	...	161
E. R. Norris Mathews, Bristol ...	...	180	W. May, Birkenhead ...	...	161
Butler Wood, Bradford ...	...	173	J. P. Edmond, Wigan ...	...	157
R. K. Dent, Aston Manor ...	...	172	S. Smith, Sheffield ...	...	148
W. Crowther, Derby ...	...	171	G. H. Elliott, Belfast ...	...	139
H. Guppy, Manchester ...	...	169	Alderman W. H. Brittain, Sheffield ...	...	137
J. J. Ogle, Bootle ...	...	167	A. W. Robertson, Aberdeen ...	...	133
G. T. Shaw, Liverpool ...	...	164	A. Cotgreave, West Ham ...	...	124
C. Madeley, Warrington ...	...	162	G. L. Campbell, Wigan...	...	123

Not Elected.

C. V. Kirkby, Leicester	121	Z. Moon, Leyton	82
L. Stanley Jast, Croydon	94	T. Johnston, Hornsey	72

WHAT IS IT?

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AFTER much flourish of trumpets and endless premonitory heavings like the mountain in labour, it has at last appeared. At first we thought it was a medal to be presented to the youth of both sexes for regular attendance at the Sunday School, but another inspection unsettled this idea, and it was succeeded by the guess that it was a kind of token, issued by an enterprising commercial company, to be exchanged later in measured quantities for tea caddies or impracticable clocks. Closer examination, however, revealed groups of what looked like books, some in heaps on the floor, some supported on thick shelves, and a bottom row apparently footing it deftly on a string. The words "The Library Association," floating in ethereal space, strengthened the idea that it had some connection with books, and at last it crossed our mind in one brilliant, illuminating flash, that it was a medal or metal ticket granting admission to an Open Access Library. But why a gigantic Japanese lady with Greek hair and Roman feet, issuing thick pancakes to hungry pigmies near the flap of the coal-cellar? And why advertise Duro-flexile or other bindings, as is done in the case of the mediæval man, woman, or boy with the brewer's or smuggler's cap, standing in the front row? But is it not rather a boomerang instead of a book which he or she is holding? Authorities have styled this conundrum a "corporate seal," whatever that may be. Our own final impression is that it is really a design for a butter print.



CORRESPONDENCE.

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To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.

"THE LIBRARIAN'S LIBRARY."

DEAR SIR,—In the June number of *The Library World* you give a list of books for a librarian's library. In a prefatory note you intimate that not many of the books in this list would be found in an average library. In the list you give there are about 100 entries. Of these there are 60 in the City Library of Springfield. Of the remaining 40 at least 8 are so distinctly applicable to English conditions as to be of almost no use in an American library, and some of the others are quite foreign to our methods here. I mention these facts, not because I would consider the showing of this library as to its equipment of librarian's books as particularly notable or praiseworthy; but as indicating, what I think to be a fact, that in this country libraries of fair size are generally very well equipped with such books as you include in your list.

Yours very truly,

*The City Library Association,
Springfield, Mass.*

J. C. DANA, Librarian.

[It is very gratifying to find our American cousins so well equipped with technical literature, and if all other libraries in the States are as fully provided with such books as Springfield, we can only sorrowfully confess that England is very far behind. Naturally, one would expect a distinguished librarian like Mr. Dana to surround himself with tools of this kind, and it would be very interesting to learn if all other American librarians are equally keen. We can assure Mr. Dana that the *Library World* is not so well supported in the States as we believe its merits deserve, but no doubt recognition will come in due course.—Ed.]

THE STOCK REGISTER.

SIR,—By a slight slip of your dreadful blue pencil, the beginning of paragraph 2 of my paper on "The Stock Register," which appeared in your last number, has been made to refer to the stock register instead of the withdrawals register, thus considerably obscuring the meaning.

Also the column for the date of the replacement has been omitted in the ruling for a withdrawals register.

ERNEST A. SAVAGE.

Central Library, Croydon.

PROPOSED NORTHERN COUNTIES BRANCH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—The following is a list of the librarians in the Northern Counties who have notified to date their intention of joining the proposed Branch of the Library Association.

J. W. C. PURVES, Secretary *pro. tem.*

Mr. B. Anderton, B.A., Newcastle-upon-Tyne Public Libraries.
 Mr. B. R. Hill, Public Library, Sunderland.
 Mr. Baker Hudson, Public Library, Middlesbro'.
 Mr. H. E. Johnston, Public Library, Gateshead.
 Mr. Archibald Sparke, Public Library, Carlisle.
 Mr. W. J. Arrowsmith, Public Library, Darlington.
 Mr. A. R. Corns, Sub-Librarian, Public Library, South Shields.
 Mr. G. W. Byers, Public Library, Harrogate.
 Mr. W. F. Lawton, Hull Public Libraries.
 Mr. J. Fearon, Public Library, Cockermouth.
 Mr. A. Errington, Sub-Librarian, Subscription Library, Sunderland.
 Mr. A. Watkins, Public Library, West Hartlepool.
 Mr. E. Beck, Public Library, Barrow-in-Furness.
 Mr. J. W. Singleton, Kendall Public Library.
 Mr. J. W. C. Purves, Public Library, Workington

Public Library Workington, Cumberland.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

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TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING, AT BRISTOL.

THE Conference of the Library Association, which took place at Bristol, on September 25th to 28th, 1900, will be remembered chiefly as a highly successful and enjoyable series of social events, for which the local arrangements were admirable. The atmosphere of the old city itself, with its memories of Cabot, Chatterton, the Slave Trade, and John Silver, to name only the more romantic, threw a glamour over the whole meeting, and the consequence was that, even the small rump of practicality which had been added to the proceedings for the look of the thing, was absorbed in the interest of the surroundings. Who was going to waste time, had there been any to waste, discussing the value of abstract lectures on—say bees, to public librarians, when, outside in the fresh, open air, dainty bands of Red Maids challenged attention, and the magnificent gorge of Clifton fascinated every lover of books and nature? It was putting too great a strain upon the enthusiasm of members to expect them to forsake the beauties of a fine city for a bare and flavourless hash of papers which would do little credit to the smallest local branch of the Association. We do not in any way reflect upon the literary ability of most of the papers presented, which was uniformly high, nor upon their antiquarian interest, which, again, was great; but we must deny the utility of most of the papers which were read, as incentives to discussion, or as in any way forwarding the main cause for which the Library Association was formed. Fourteen papers were put down for discussion, and of these only five had any direct connection with library work. Three others had a certain bearing upon the work of libraries established under the Public Libraries' Acts, while the remaining six were papers of local or literary interest. We do not complain so much about the composition of the programme, as against the cutting down of the time allotted to the discussions. If the whole business of the meeting had been to discuss the papers of Messrs. Aldred ("Book Selection and Rejection"); Hulme ("Principles of Dictionary Subject Cataloguing"); and Doubleday and Quinn ("Dictionary *versus* Classified Catalogues"), and nothing else, the time of the Conference would not have been frittered away as it was, but the Cataloguing papers were never even reached, while the one on "Book Selection" only survived to the discussion stage, because its author had the foresight to have it printed in advance. Next year the Council will, perhaps, organise afternoon sessions on questions pertaining to library work, for those who have no particular interest in the manufacture of soap, linoleum, or tobacco.

VOL. III., No. 28, October, 1900.

The papers comprising the programme were as follows :—

1. The Presidential Address, delivered by Sir Edward Fry, from which the following excellent extracts may be quoted :—

" Libraries after all are only receptacles for books, and what are we to say and to think of books. ' Books,' said the Earl of Crawford, in addressing your Association in 1898, ' books represent the better part, the quintessence, the immortal utterance of the loftiest minds of the past, lingering and voiceful among men to the latest generations.' If this be a true account of books in general, the value of books and the value of libraries as containing books would be as great as it would be indisputable. But this description was, no doubt, meant by your noble President to refer not to books as a whole, but to the best books. For, in point of fact, it is not true of books as a whole. It is not true of anything but a very select few of the great mass of things which call themselves books. There is still a yet larger class of books which challenge our attention if we look around us with a view to ascertain the real value of books as a whole. You will recollect the low estimate which that great thinker Bishop Butler, who once presided over the diocese of this city, formed of the average literature of his day. He refers to the fact, which he regards as prodigious, that of those who have a real curiosity to see what is said, several ' have no sort of curiosity to see what is true,' and then says :—' The great number of books and papers of amusement which, of one kind or another, daily come into one's way, have in part occasioned, and most perfectly fall in with and humour, this idle way of reading and considering things. By this means time, even in solitude, is happily got rid of, without the pain of attention ; neither is any part of it more put to the account of idleness—one can scarce forbear saying is spent with less thought—than great part of that which is spent in reading.' What the wise bishop would have thought and said of the literature of the present day, with its ever-increasing swarm of weekly and monthly periodicals, its vast production of idle and trifling volumes, its society papers, its bookstalls at the railway stations crowded with productions, whose only merit is that they are destined to perish with the day, I can hardly venture to think. But below this merely idle literature there is a vast and horrible depth : there is the seething mass of corrupt and corrupting productions which attract by their tendency to inflame the evil passions of men, and influence them not for good, but for evil, and draw them not upwards to the light, but downwards to the darkness. How rapidly and directly such literature tends to promote evil will be to some extent known to everyone who has been concerned with the administration of justice in this country ; and the evil is increased by the varied form in which the poison is presented. Sometimes it is put forward in the simplest and coarsest manner ; sometimes it is half concealed beneath a literary garb ; sometimes it hides itself under the mask of scientific investigation. It is not needful to go to foreign countries for illustrations of the class of literature to which I refer. So wherever, as in our own country, the press is free, there it will give expression, not only to the better feelings and the loftier aspirations of mankind, but to the baser motives of the natural man, to his hatred of his fellow-man, to his selfishness, to his lust. Satan, it must be admitted, knows well how to work the printing press ; he is a most successful member of the publishing community. Books are simply one form in which knowledge presents itself to us, and knowledge itself is not of good only but of evil. Let me remind you of how Shelley compared knowledge to the inundation of the Nile, bringing at once fertility and malaria :—

O'er Egypt's land of memory, floods are level,
And they are thine, O Nile ! and well thou knowest
That soul-sustaining airs and blasts of evil,
And fruits and poisons spring where'er thou flowest.
Beware, O man ! for knowledge must to thee
Like the great flood to Egypt ever be.

If such be the divers colours of knowledge, if such be the opposite characters of the better and the worse classes of literature on what principles are we to defend

the existence of general libraries? In the first place it must, with all due deference, be said that one of the functions of a general library is the preservation of rubbish. If the kitchen middens and shell-heaps of pre-historic villages have enabled the antiquaries to restore for us in part the society and mode of life of the palæolithic and neolithic man—if the waste-paper baskets of the Favoum have made the social arrangements of the Greek veterans of Arsinoë known to us—so in still greater degree will such collections as that of the British Museum enable the historian of a future age to trace the growth of railways from the accumulated 'Bradshaws,' to see the condition of astronomy as applied to the calendar, and the multifarious business of life from the successive volumes of 'Whitaker,' to sound the depths of folly and inanity from a huge collection of shilling or sixpenny dreadfuls. Another reason for the undistinguishing preservation of all books, good and bad alike, is to be found in the warning which history gives of the danger attending their destruction. When the victorious Christians under Theophilus pillaged the library of the Serapeum at Alexandria, and, in their religious zeal, destroyed a large part of the library; when, at a later date, the like zeal of the Caliph Omar—according to a tradition which must be admitted to be doubtful—condemned to the stoves of the baths all the Greek literature then remaining in the library on the well-known dilemma that it was either useless or noxious, when the Protestant zeal of Edward VI's counsellors purified the library of the University of Cambridge, acts were done which were consonant with the highest motives of those who did them; but they are condemned by the judgment and best sense of succeeding times. We dare not willingly trust to one generation a power of destroying that which may in the end prove itself to be rightfully the inheritance of all the ages. But arguments which satisfy us that there should be repositories of all published works, do not lead to the conclusion that libraries intended for the general reading of the general public, and libraries which are designed to affect a direct educational end, should be conducted on the same principle of refusing all selection. A library which presents with equal facility, and, so to speak, with an equal recommendation to the unskilled readers, the noblest and the vilest productions of the human mind can hardly come up to the ideal of the Egyptian king, and prove a fitting hospital for the soul; for its wards will be infected with the fever of passion, and be haunted with the subtle bacteria of impure suggestion or unholy thought. Every change in social or national life, even when directly for the good of the State, is almost necessarily accompanied by some collateral and special danger of its own; and it is our bounden duty to keep strict watch against all such incipient evils. To apply this observation to the particular matter in hand, no one will, I think, deny that the spread of education has created distinct and appreciable dangers of its own; that the capacity to read has gone beyond the capacity to judge of the character of what is read, and has gone still more in excess of the desire to think; and hence it becomes of great moment by every means in our power to turn reading into channels which shall really fertilise the mind and strengthen the growth of all noble emotions. In so saying, I trust I shall not be mistaken and be supposed to be pleading for a censorship of the press or an *Index expurgatorius*. I am not praising 'a fugitive and cloistered virtue,' I am not desirous of suppressing fiction, nor do I deny that amusement is one of the legitimate objects of reading; but what I do desire to call your attention to is this: that as the power of reading is becoming daily more and more widely spread, as the access to books is becoming more and more easy, so there should be an ever-increasing knowledge of the right method of using that power, and an ever-increasing sense of the responsibilities created by the opportunity. The primary burden of enforcing these duties must be with the parent and the schoolmaster; but in this good work the librarian also must, I conceive, have an important part, especially in such collections of books as have recently been established for the benefit of the general public. The funds at the disposal of such libraries must always be more or less limited, and in the choice of books to be purchased you are driven to exercise a harmless, nay, a beneficial censorship. Again, in the advice which must be often sought for from a librarian you have a great opportunity for exerting a beneficial influence. So far as it lies within your power to divert those who frequent your rooms from what is frivolous or worse to books of sterling

merit, so far as you teach them that reading should not be mere pastime of an idle hour, but a serious effort in the pursuit of knowledge, of truth, of all that is noble and ennobling so far as you thus help them to cultivate their taste, to store their minds, to raise their souls, so far your work leads not only to the intellectual but to the moral and spiritual advancement of our nation, so far you will help to make libraries fulfil their highest of all functions—of hospitals for the soul.

2. A survey of the Public Libraries of Bristol, by Norris Mathews, Librarian, Bristol Public Libraries. Chiefly historical, with notes on recent progress and methods. Briefly discussed by Sir W. Bailey, Mr. W. H. K. Wright and Mr. W. E. Doubleday.

3. Some of the Public Institutions of Bristol, by L. Acland Taylor, Librarian, Museum Library, Bristol.

4. Lectures under the Public Libraries' Acts, by C. W. Kimmins, M.A., D.Sc., Secretary of the London Society for the Extension of University Teaching.

5. Library Readers' Unions: their value and possibilities, by C. F. Newcombe, Librarian, Students' Library, Toynbee Hall, London.

Nos. 4 and 5 were both pleas for the direction of reading by means of lectures or reading circles, in order to promote the study of the best literature and a more systematic and useful course of reading for the general public. Both papers were of high merit, that by Mr. Kimmins being exceptionally well delivered and received. Though somewhat off the main lines of ordinary library work, the proposals of both authors received much attention. Perhaps Mr. Lyster, of Dublin, made the most practical and valuable contribution to the discussion by pointing out that lectures by librarians, or paid lecturers, even when in exposition of the contents of books in the library, might well stand over till such important matters as classification and cataloguing had received more general attention, and had attained a higher level all round. Most of the other speakers spoke on technicalities, but their remarks may be summarised thus:—

Sir William Bailey believed that under the Public Libraries' Act, they had power to dedicate rooms to lectures on poetry, literature and the humanities, and the lecturer might charge a small fee. Now that newspapers were published at the halfpenny, they might consider the annihilation of the reading room, which, to a great extent, attracted betting men. It was worthy of consideration whether the reading room could not be devoted to lecture and literary purposes. He moved—"That this meeting views with approval the extension of the powers of the Library Committee with reference to the support of educational work in the direction of instruction in the humanities."

Mr. T. Formby (Liverpool) seconded the resolution.

Mr. Plummer (Manchester) spoke of the great mass of worthless literature which was taken from the libraries and read. The average reader did not come for instruction, but to be amused, and they must recognise it and need not be discouraged.

Mr. Fovargue (Hon. Solicitor), thought it remained to be proved that library authorities had not the power to provide these lectures. There were, of course, lectures and lectures. He did not mean that all would pass, but he did not see why the librarian should not be paid for a lecture on literature, and the books within his library. If they could pay the librarian for it, why should they not pay an assistant simply to give these lectures? As to the expression "worthless literature" used by Mr. Plummer, he advised that gentleman, if they had any in the Manchester library, to clear it out when he got back.

Mr. Dent (Aston Manor) said they would shortly have the opportunity of testing the point as to the legality of the payments for lectures. After being carried on seventeen years at Aston Manor, they were now to be disallowed by the auditor.

Mr. Baker (Bristol) urged that technical instruction tended to elevate the artisan, and whet the appetite for literature.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. Pacy) said that libraries were anxious to extend their work in every direction which was useful, but it was entirely a question of funds.

Alderman Southern (Manchester) counselled the postponement of any action pending the result of the Aston Manor case.

The mover of the resolution agreed to refer the question to the Legislation Committee of the Library Association, and this was agreed to.

Mr. C. Madeley (Warrington) advocated the removal of the limit of the libraries' rate. The Council of the Association would do well to consider whether it was not time that corporations were allowed to regulate their expenditure on libraries, art galleries, and museums, just as they did on baths.

6. Book Selection and Rejection, by Thomas Aldred, Librarian, St. George-the-Martyr Public Library, London. A useful and suggestive paper on the selection and rejection of books in Public Libraries.

Alderman Southern (Manchester) said the matter of book selection was very difficult. They could not always refuse the legitimate desires of readers to read certain books, but they required to find out some mode of excluding vicious and injurious literature from Public Libraries.

Alderman Rawson said the task of looking through all the books and forming a sound opinion upon them would be Herculean. With regard to technical and other books than novels, he depended to a large extent upon the publishers, the name of the best houses being usually a guarantee of their value.

Mr. F. T. Barrett (Glasgow) suggested that no novel should be placed on the shelf of a Public Library until it had been two years out of the press. He admitted it was a bold suggestion. He pointed out that the demand for any particular book was not always a test of its value.

Mr. Wood (Bradford) said that in that town they depended upon the advice of experts with regard to technical books. As to fiction, he thought they might be guided in most cases by reviews.

Mr. Lyster (Dublin) suggested that the best and most amusing books should be chosen for light reading, and common sense should be exercised in the selection and rejection of books. Imbecile and inane fiction was more injurious than what was called evil fiction.

At this point the discussion became a kind of general onslaught upon Committees, some speakers stigmatizing the ordinary Committeeman as one unqualified to select books because of his ignorance, and it was necessary for the chairman to call one speaker to order, for the pungency of his remarks.

Mr. Carter (Kingston-on-Thames) said he derived great help from the advice of readers on whom he could rely. He frequently used their information for his catalogue annotations.

Mr. Bowley (Leeds) did not think it was necessary to have a bad book either in the reference or lending library. He always read the reviews, and he did not think the difficulty in book selection was so great as some people imagined.

The President said the subject might be divided into two heads—the moral and the literary, and the question was likely to become increasingly difficult as municipal libraries extended. The literary side was more difficult to deal with, as tastes differed; but it was not quite so important as the moral. Unfortunately they had arrived at no solution, but perhaps the discussion may lead to something that would bring about, in time, that happy consummation.

7. The Literary Associations of Bath, by C. T. Macaulay. A useful paper in view of the visit of the Association to Bath on the same day.

8. Art Galleries in connection with Public Libraries. by A. G. Temple, F.S.A., Director, Guildhall Art Gallery, London.

Mr. Temple dwelt on the usefulness of one institution to the other, the help the literary student derived from a properly organised gallery and the material aid afforded to the art student by free access to a good library. He held that books should take precedence of pictures as a public requirement, inasmuch as the uninformed mind was unable duly to appreciate the fine art of a picture—and pointed to the refining tendency of all art, whether it be painting or statuary, the delicate etching, or the rapid and spontaneous production of the worker in black and white. He spoke of the galleries already established throughout the country, and their mode of maintenance, drawing particular attention to the Walker Art Gallery, at Liverpool, which he termed one of the most prosperous of the provincial galleries. A special feature of the paper was Mr. Temple's advocacy of the establishment of art libraries. The literature of art, he said, was now tenfold what it was twenty-five years ago, the establishment of art galleries in most of the great centres, the frequent exhibitions, the facility for

reproducing pictures, and the greatly extended patronage of the arts by the public, have conduced to this. The reader concluded with the practical step of naming a list of works which might form a serviceable nucleus for such a library.

Mr. Doubleday (Hampstead) advocated a more extensive establishment of art galleries in connection with libraries, and that the cost should be provided outside the penny limit, which was barely sufficient for library purposes.

Mr. Lancaster (St. Helens). Mr. Duckworth (Worcester), and Mr. Bateman (Oldham) spoke of the value of art exhibitions, and Mr. Temple said the Government and trustees of the National and other galleries were always ready to assist the provinces on conditions that were easily acceptable by the local authorities.

9. Some things of general interest in the Bristol Medical Library, by L. M. Griffiths, M.R.C.S., Hon. Librarian.

10. Mediæval Libraries, with special reference to Bristol and District, by Thomas Webb Williams.

This was a contribution bringing together all the available facts relating to any books which there were in the counties of Gloucester and Somerset prior to the dissolution of the monasteries, when all the mediæval libraries referred to ceased to exist. A list was given of the sources from which information could be found about them, such as were referred to being all monastic or cathedral, except one civic, and one belonging to a cathedral dignitary. The libraries were dealt with in detail, little or nothing being known about several beyond the names of a few books mentioned by Boston of Bury, or Ieland. For Gloucestershire the places referred to were:—1. Bristol: The Kalendars Library and St. Augustine's Abbey. 2. Cirencester Abbey: The names of a few books only being known, and two cartularies and a register traced. 3. Flaxley Abbey: a catalogue is extant. 4. Gloucester: St. Peter's Abbey—the names of some books are given and a few traced. 5. Llanthony Priory: a catalogue of the fine library of about 500 volumes is extant, containing a considerable number of classical works; the books are set out in the order of the cases and shelves in which they were placed. 6. Tewkesbury Abbey: Little is known of the library here. 7. Winchcombe Abbey: several books from here are extant. The places in Somerset referred to were: 1. Athelney Abbey. 2. Axbridge. 3. Bath Cathedral. 4. Bruton Abbey. 5. Glastonbury Abbey. 6. Hintin Priory. 7. Keynsham Abbey. 8. Montacute Priory. 9. Machelney Abbey. 10. Taunton Priory. 11. Wells Cathedral. 12. Witham Priory. 13. Dean Gunthorp. Of the libraries of Bath, Glastonbury, Wells and Witham, a very considerable amount of information was recorded.

The President expressed appreciation of the patient learning displayed in Mr. Williams's paper.

Mr. H. R. Tedder, F.S.A., joined in the vote of thanks and Mr. W. Jones (Cheltenham) hoped the paper would encourage librarians to

make notes on any mediæval relics that might be discovered in their respective neighbourhoods.

Bishop Brownlow said Mr. Williams had referred to the tracing of books which might have been at one time in Bristol. It might be interesting to know the history of one book which came to his predecessor, Bishop Clifford, from the Franciscan body. He was told it was a copy of the Hereford Missal, and that it was the only perfect copy in existence. Bishop Clifford was persuaded to sell it to the British Museum, and it realised £300.

PAPERS NOT READ OR DISCUSSED.

11. *Masonic Libraries*, by Samuel Smith, Librarian, Sheffield Public Libraries.

12. *A Note on the Systematic Exhibition of New Books in the Salford Libraries*, by Ben H. Mullen, Librarian, Salford Public Libraries.

13. *Principles of Dictionary Subject-Cataloguing in Scientific and Technical Libraries*, by E. Wyndham Hulme, Librarian, Patent Office, London.

14. *Dictionary versus Classified Catalogues in Lending Libraries: Dictionary Catalogues*, by W. E. Doubleday, Librarian, Hampstead Public Libraries, London. *Classified Catalogues*, by J. Henry Quinn, Librarian, Chelsea Public Libraries, London.

15. *An Investigation into the amount of risk of contracting Infectious Diseases by the use of Public Library Books*, by J. Y. W. MacAlister, Librarian, R.M.C.S., London, and Dr. W. G. Savage, Bacteriologist to the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory.

The Annual Business Meeting, held on Thursday, September 27th, adopted the Annual Report of the Council, and agreed to hold the next Conference at Plymouth and Devonport, from which towns cordial invitations were received. The proposal of the Council to alter the Bye-Laws, so as to make the summoning of Special General Meetings only possible if forty, instead of fifteen, members signed a requisition, and tabled £10 to cover expenses, was received with scant ceremony by the members at large. After a long discussion, in which undue prominence was given to a kind of historical *resumé* of the personal squabbles between one or two London Councillors and a few private London members, the resolution was withdrawn in favour of a slight amendment of the existing rule. The Chairman refused to permit the Bye-Laws to be suspended in order to allow Mr. MacAllister's proposal (appearing in the *Library Association Record* for September, p. 505) to be introduced or discussed. Thus members were denied an opportunity of conferring on a matter which would do more than anything else, if carried, to restore good feeling among the rank and file of members. It seems a very reasonable thing to suggest that in an Association like this, where all are equals, that the honour attaching to

membership of the Council should go round a little more widely, and Mr. MacAlister's proposal that a certain proportion of Councillors should retire annually and not be eligible for re-election for one year had all the essentials of common-sense and precedent to recommend it. If it had been put to the meeting, it would have stood an excellent chance of being carried. The remainder of the business of the Conference consisted of the usual votes of thanks and the customary after-dinner oratory.

The principal social functions, all of which were well-managed, pleasant and interesting were as follows :—

1. Invitation Luncheon at the Royal Hotel, on Tuesday, September 25th
2. Visits to St. Mary Redcliff, the Council House, &c., and to divers factories.
3. Conversazione at Bristol University College.
4. Invitation visit to Bath, on Wednesday, September 26th, including Luncheon, Drives, Tea, and visits to the ancient Roman Baths, Pump Room, &c.
5. Smoking Concert in University College for men ; Theatre, *La Poupée*, for the ladies.
6. Invitation Luncheon at the Royal Hotel, on Thursday September 27th.
7. Visits to the Cathedral, City Library, &c., and to Avonmouth Dock.
8. Annual Association Dinner at the Royal Hotel.
9. Selection of Excursions on Friday, September 28th, to
 - (1). Wells and Cheddar ; (2). Frome and Longleat ;
 - (3). Weston-super-Mare and Tynesfield.

It may be judged from this generous programme of festivities that papers, discussions, &c., had to be sacrificed. When an invitation from any locality is received by a Society such as this, it is often necessary to fall in with the local arrangements, which are generally made with great trouble and expense. Our objection is not to such a necessary course as this, but rather with the Council, or its special Committee, for not procuring papers of a useful sort which could be discussed, and finding time for them by printing all local or purely literary papers in advance and *taking them as read*. If a local enthusiast at Plymouth, next year, wishes to prepare a paper on "Remarkable Literary Gents who have bathed at Dawlish," by all means let him do so, but spare a meeting, composed chiefly of librarians in search of professional light, the awful infliction of having to *listen* to such a paper. While it makes good enough "copy," it is scarcely the sort of paper which practical librarians expect to be asked to discuss. We gather from the Annual Report of the Council that the special Committee entrusted with the task of making up the programmes for

monthly and annual meetings, only met three times last year. Perhaps this explains the poverty of the programmes, not only at Bristol, but at the monthly meetings throughout the past session. Next session of monthly meetings, which will be held out of London whenever possible, will, no doubt, see the resuscitation of all the papers crowded out at Bristol. However bad this may be, as a discouragement to fresh efforts on the part of members, it will be preferable to journeying to Walton-on-the-Naze in order to hear about the literary celebrities of that salubrious spot.

As will be seen from other statements in these pages, the absence of practical papers which can be discussed is felt by librarians of every kind, and it will be well if the Council can arrange in the future to place before members an up-to-date list of topics for discussion which will atone for the omissions of the past. There is nothing required but a little exertion on the part of the powers that be to procure papers equalling in interest, variety, and discussability, the splendid programme provided at the L.A. meeting at London, in 1897.



IMPRESSIONS OF THE BRISTOL CONFERENCE.

A SYMPOSIUM.

AS nearly every librarian who attends a Library Conference forms some sort of an opinion of the general impression left by it on his mind, we have arranged to publish the views of any member of the Library Association who attended the meeting, and chooses to send his or her ideas, expressed in a short, crisp manner. The following views have been sent by librarians and others in response to an invitation given them at Bristol, and we trust this series may serve as an incentive to other Library Association members desirous of expressing their opinions.

"An excellent social meeting : plenty to see, plenty to eat, plenty of agreeable companions ; business practically nil ; this is the natural opinion of our younger and more energetic members. Elderly librarians, whose minds are made up on all library matters, and who have earned a latter age of repose and genial enjoyment, will assent, and say, 'A very good meeting,' too ! Why, indeed, should the young radical bother older skulls with his projects and ideals, admirable though they be ? The elder has adapted himself to his environment.

His may not be the best of all possible systems in the best of all possible libraries ; but it is good enough for him. At all events he has not two-thirds of life before him to work out a new. Yes, but the young librarian has not come here for a holiday. Cannot he and his brother zealots have a room to themselves, where they may, without hindrance, discuss the things they have at heart, while the others busy themselves with congenial pleasures ? Willingly would they pay ten pounds for such a privilege.

E. A. BAKER, M.A.
Derby."

"I am asked, as a writer, what general impressions the Bristol meeting of the Library Association has left with me. *Impressions* :— That it was a bright, cheery meeting, under glorious sunshine, and in a city redolent with literary reminiscences. Looking round on the gathering that assembled in the University College Hall, on September 25th, and comparing the assembly with many another congress of other professions that I have attended, the air of intellectuality that was stamped upon the greatest proportion of the faces present, struck me forcibly. The keen, clear eyes of the President, Sir Edward Fry, scanned these forces shrewdly, and betrayed eagerness and pleasure in his task, and surely it will be hard to have a presidential address more fraught with interest, and with weighty yet charmingly expressed advice. The West Country has always a great charm to all visitors, but it seemed rather hard upon the writers of papers that more time was not given to the reading of them, but the papers that were read, to a writer, were full of interest, especially the one on 'Medæval Libraries of Bristol and its Neighbourhood.' The vast pains and assiduous research given to the subject proved that the author, Mr. Webb Williams, must have devoted intense care to its preparation. The paper on Bath, by Mr. Macaulay, added largely to the interest of the visit to the 'Queen of the West,' and in driving round the city, as house after house was passed, sentient with the memories of past writers, or speaking of the living ones, Mr. Macaulay's paper helped the librarians to understand the literary history of Bath. And here forces in upon one the regret that some such paper, and some such drive had not been arranged for Bristol, for the older city has an older, and wider and fuller literary life than Bath, from the days of William of Worcester, Hakluyt, John Evelyn to those of John Addington Symonds and T. E. B., whose letters have just been published. Does this fact not point out an evil that the librarians may have to guard against? The Institute of Journalists has been compelled to forgo the doubtful honour of being made an advertising medium by firms anxious for *rèclame*. There are certain works, as, say, Armstrong's, that are mighty monuments of England's commercial powers, but the time of the librarians should be jealously guarded, especially in districts rich with glorious scenery, and crowded with memories of great writers and painters, and forming a long vista of histories, and even prehistoric associations. Even

luncheons (and at Bristol and Bath these were excellent) should give way to the gathering of such memories, that are lovable, and enduring, and, to a librarian, valuable. But the Bristol meeting was one to be pleasantly remembered, and the courteous Chairman, Mr. F. F. Fox, whom Sir W. Bailey most aptly described as 'By the Grace of God, Gentleman,' and the two Bristol Librarians, Mr. Norris Mathews, and Mr. Ackland Taylor, need not fear 'odious' comparisons in other great centres where the Association may hold its annual gathering.

JAMES BAKER, F.R.G.S.,
Clifton."

"Impressions :—The pleasure part of proceedings was perfectly provided and plentifully partaken of. The practical portion of a poor programme of papers was not practicable; picnics partly preventing, and Bristol's bounty precluding.

Desiderata :—A practical programme at Plymouth, and free discussions urgently desired. To assist preparation for these—penmen please proffer practical papers. The innovation of so much overlapping and alternate trips is *not* desirable.

Reflections :—Why not try having all debatable papers printed and circulated before the Conference? Thus leaving all the time now taken up with reading (often badly) for short *résumés* by the writers, and untrammelled discussions? Why not also some small round table discussions? Why not a South Western (or Bristol and Cardiff) L. A.? Bristol can teach and learn much by intercourse with neighbouring libraries. Members, council and officers might contribute to the better conduct of *business*. Despite attaining its majority the L. A. has much to learn yet.

HENRY BOND,
Lincoln Public Library."

"The Bristol meeting of the Library Association was a highly successful one in point of numbers. The presidential address differs somewhat from the addresses of previous years, but displays great scholarship, and its reading was listened to with marked attention. The programme was lacking in papers bearing upon practical librarianship, but the papers on local subjects were quite up to the average of similar papers at previous meetings. The ancient city is of considerable interest to the historian, antiquary, and commercial man; and very favourably impressed the visitors with its picturesqueness, its enterprises, and its hospitality. The local arrangements were admirable in every respect.

J. POTTER BRISCOE, V.P., F.L.A., F.R.H.S.,
Nottingham."

"I enjoyed the Bristol Conference immensely, finding it one of the most restful meetings I ever attended. There was nothing to disturb one's appreciation of the picturesque parts of old Bristol, or to interfere with a tranquil survey of the natural beauties of the Clifton district. No knotty problems to discuss, nothing to excite professional interest, and no new point in the development of librarianship to cause discussion. Only one foolish resolution of the Council, aptly described by Sir W. H. Bailey as 'petty,' because of the unproductive discussion which it elicited, and its somewhat lame results. I heard many complaints about the poverty of the programme of papers, and think it would be well for the Council to attempt a drastic reform in this department. On the whole, the Conference was an agreeable and restful function, disfigured, perhaps, by more obtrusive conviviality than is seemly at such meetings, and fully abreast, on its social side, with most annual meetings of recent years.

JAMES D. BROWN,
Clerkenwell Public Libraries."

"The most notable feature of the Bristol Conference was an omission! The jubilee of the passing of the first Public Library Act was allowed to pass unnoticed! The programme offered several important items for consideration, but again lack of time prevented adequate discussion. Mr. Temple's paper on 'Art Galleries in connection with Public Libraries,' suffered severely in this respect. Some of the papers were suggestive rather than conclusive, and the various points were subsequently discussed by private groups. This comparing of notes and impressions, is, in my opinion, one of the most useful features of the Conference, and renders it to some degree independent of the programme. If Dr. Kimmins can prevail upon the London County Council to allot something from the Excise Funds for Technical Books, the question of library lectures would be nearer a satisfactory solution. Mr. Newcombe's plan for 'Readers' Unions' at libraries struck me as too Utopian for adoption in a busy Public Library. The local and bibliographical papers were quite up to average interest, but (without ungraciousness, I hope), one cannot but feel that if it could be so arranged, such academic communications should either be printed beforehand and taken as read, or more business sessions should be held. The Bristol Conference will be full of pleasant recollections for those who were fortunate enough to be present.

W. E. DOUBLEDAY,
Hampstead Public Libraries."

"I have written two drafts of my impressions of the Bristol meeting and tried a third, with the result that I have torn them all up. I tried my very best to write in terms of moderation of the 'business' done at Bristol, and of the present position of the Library Association, but in the interests of truth I could not possibly do less than say, in very

pointed language, that from the point of view of those Library Committees who have generously paid the librarian's expenses to attend the meeting the thing was a sheer, dead failure and an absolute waste of public money. I am perfectly certain that any librarian who will candidly and reasonably think over the whole of the proceedings cannot honestly report to his Committee that he brings back value, or anything approaching value for the money allowed him. This, I may add, was the feeling of all in the party, expressed in the train, in the company with which I returned to town. In the words of one friend the question was asked, "Is the Association played out?" The shameful amount of time given to excursions, the mediocrity of the papers read or more often 'taken as read,' the limit of the discussions, owing to the greater desire of the management for pleasure, the burking, or absolute resolution, on the part of the Council to stifle consideration of their methods are indicative of what, unless a change takes place, will, unhappily, be the end of the Association. It is now some nine or ten years since I attended the whole session at an annual meeting, and the falling off in interest and importance was to me most apparent. If librarians in these degenerate days of the Association paid their own expenses to attend the meeting they would be entitled to look upon it as the holiday it really has become, but I should be sorry to think that anyone takes the expenses and thinks he is doing justice to his Committee, or leads his Committee to think so. I need add nothing as to the generosity with which the Association was treated at Bristol and Bath. The West of England is famous for its courtesy to visitors, and so we found everyone extremely courteous and kind to us, and lavish in their hospitality. But it is a pity we imposed ourselves upon such great good nature as a body of business men come out to hold a Conference.

JOHN FROWDE,
Bermondsey Public Library."

P.S.—"I should think a most valuable and proper question to discuss in your magazine would be the reform of the Association, and how best to bring it back to a sense of the useful work that lies before it. How, in fact, we may 'set our house in order.' *Who will 'bell the cat'?*"

"My opinion of the Bristol Meeting, of course I refer only to the professional side of it, is —, I was going to say unfit for publication, but I will make an effort and be as mild as I know how. 'The programme of papers this year was the very thinnest brew that the Council has as yet regaled us with. There were not above half-a-dozen practical papers in it, and most of those were on very time-worn subjects, and as for the discussion—well, leaving out the fact that there is never any time to discuss anything properly, is it not ridiculous to suppose that any technical subject can receive adequate and helpful discussion at the hands of a general audience? And the poverty of our programmes both at annual and monthly meetings is not due to

the absence from the Association of 'live' men, who can give 'live' papers (No, I don't allude to myself,) and would, if only they were asked. I agree thoroughly with the suggestions made in *The Library World* some time ago as to how a Conference should be run. But what's the use of talking? If there is anything wrong in the State of Denmark, only Denmark can set it right, and if Denmark doesn't care, why Hamlet may go hang.

L. STANLEY JAST,
Croydon Public Libraries."

"That the meeting was a very great success, the organisation perfect, and hospitality lavish.

That the list of papers was quite long enough, and that a time limit should be set in the discussions.

That the papers read on local subjects were the most interesting.

That the following definition of the duties of a librarian, made use of by Mr. King in his charming notes on the Bath records, is worth preserving :—'The great glory of a librarian is, safely to hold and freely to produce.'

That the croakers, who would have more papers and less excursions, and who would make the Annual Meeting as dull as a Scotch Sabbath, be hereby requested to stop their croaking, for nobody heeds them.

That fifty papers would not teach so well the object lessons taught by the enjoyable visit to Bath, or the delightful excursion to Wells and Cheddar.

That the Council deserved the snub they received from the business meeting, for their attempted interference with Special General Meetings.

BERNARD KETTLE,
Guildhall Library."

"The Executive and others who helped to contribute towards what proved to be one of the most successful meetings of the L.A. are to be congratulated, and deserve our warmest thanks. The programme and general arrangements made left little to be desired, and the papers and discussions were certainly up to the average. It is to be regretted, however, that several of the most practical papers, which might have created a most animated discussion, were placed at the end of the programme and had to be taken as read.

The discussion that followed Mr. Aldred's interesting paper (which was also taken as read) proved the necessity of a Society composed of librarians only; or of convening occasional meetings of the existing Association intended for librarians only, when such important matters affecting the status of librarians could be discussed without giving offence to the powers that be.

The hearty welcome and unstinted hospitality which the members of the Association received both at Bristol and Bath was a great honour conferred.

To be hypercritical, I think it was a pity, and undesirable that the members should have been so divided for visiting local industries and or the several excursions made. I would also suggest, for future meetings, the re-adoption of a book of coupons as a substitution for the loose tickets, which are more confusing and apt to become mislaid.

WM. C. PLANT,
Shoreditch Public Libraries."

"The Conference of 1900 has come and gone, and, like its predecessor, it will be memorable for the scarcity of papers on practical subjects. No librarian would object to reading about the libraries, institutions, &c., of Bristol, or any other place, but when the only two forenoons left for the reading and discussion of papers were devoted almost entirely to these subjects, I, for one, think that it is a farce having a Conference. Young librarians look forward to hearing papers and discussions on subjects connected with their daily work, treated by men who have spent years in the profession, but they are doomed to disappointment. Older librarians may say that the majority of the subjects connected with practical library work are thrashed out. This may be the case as regards the greybeards, but surely it is the duty of the Library Association, and of the professional fathers aforesaid, to help young librarians to attain as near perfection as possible. If so, more time should be reserved for professional discussions, and some effort should be made to obtain papers from leading librarians on topics of interest to every member.

WALTER S. C. RAE,
Darwen Public Library."

MR. ANDREAS S. **Steenberg**, of Horsens, in Denmark, has published an illustrated handbook on the management, history and organisation of Public Libraries, entitled: *Folkebogsamlinger deres Historie og Indretning*. Aarhus, 1900, 176 pp. He goes into library questions in various countries, and describes the efforts made to provide popular libraries in England, America, Denmark, Germany, &c. The practical portion of the handbook is quite up to date, and he mentions open access and indicators with impartiality and without the bias usually exhibited when these important questions are on the carpet. The book is well worth obtaining, and we heartily wish Mr. Steenberg complete success in his endeavour to obtain for Denmark some of the advantages arising from the Public Library system as established in England and America.

ACCORDING to the *County Councillor*, the Public Library authority of **Accrington** has adopted the safe-guarded open access system.

MR. JINGLE LOQUITUR.

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GRAND old place—Bristol, sir—churches, docks, smells, bridges—just arrived, eh?—too late for meeting—what a pity—noble reception—just over—Library Association, sir—jollification—revelry—eating, drinking, busting—glorious.

Bookworms!—dry old sticks, librarians!—not at all, sir—quite reverse—dry, oh, well, yes, dry—sometimes, ha, ha!—dry that, eh?—splendid chaps—no mistake.

Too dull?—business a bore?—stay away—nobody wants it—Secretary capital fellow—he knows—shelved papers—no programme—arrives last moment—too late for busy-bodies—thought they'd forgot—never mind if they had—t'other programme all right—lunch, soirée, lunch, smoker, lunch again, drive, excursion—off we go—Lord Mayor and Corporation—look after us well—no time for business.

One p.m.—Royal Hotel—grand luncheon—eat and drink a solid hour—then toasts—ha! ha!—Lord Mayor—High Sheriff—all the right sort—eloquent speeches—no heeltaps—compliments all round—Worthy Alderman, so-and-so—fine old gentleman—marvellous intellect—knows everything—wonderful headpiece—awfully jolly—Alderman responds—same sentiments—different language—immense vocabulary—loud applause—bang the tables—glasses rattle—now our turn—says we're auxiliaries—right nail on head—auxiliaries of literature—louder applause—one or two overcome—fall off chairs—upstairs to bed—what?—oh! no, sir—high priests of literature—divine afflatus—can't be always high-priesting it—they'll be down again presently—time for dinner—Dean responds—long speech—thinks it's a sermon—can't hear—too much noise—never mind—more time for smokes and drinks.

Drive about—factories, churches, council-house—fifty things all at once—back to Royal—dress for soirée—grand show—Lord Mayor and High Sheriff again—full dress, knee-breeches—silk-stockings—swords studded with diamonds—don't know whether Bristol diamonds—no time to enquire—name shouted—Mr. Alfred Jingle—march up—slow music—shake hands—make your bow—all over.

Supper downstairs—experiments up—great professor—electric fireworks—how to elevate the reader—see your own bones—more fireworks next room—bang, fizz, smash—modern explosives—instruct while you amuse—speechifying down below—more compliments—jovial old fellow jumps up—always ready—anecdotes flow like water—straight from the main—Shakespeare laid on too—Milton, Plato, Burns—can't turn him off—floods the place.

Late to bed—up late—ten a.m.—business over before twelve—hooray—not worth going to—off to Bath—another Mayor and Corporation—more feasting—toasts, compliments, &c.—“For he's a jolly good fellow”—inspect the Baths—Julius Cæsar, Bladud, Beau Nash—all these jolly old chaps—took the waters regular—poor stuff—strictly teetotal—eh! what! whisky—ah! ah! that's better—good as seltzer.

Off again—drive round city—tea at Assembly Rooms—classical surroundings—more speeches, compliments, &c.—back to Bristol—in time for smoker.

Free drinks—free smokes—excellent programme—songs and recitations—speeches again—more anecdote—charming songs—recitations very pathetic—poor old woman—went over hill to poor-house—didn't know there was a road round—very touching—shed a bitter beer.

Another recitation—dramatic this time—still more touching—reciter gets mixed with different piece—spreads handkerchief on floor—thinks he's got to propose—going to kneel down—suddenly recollects—swerves back into right scene—impressive tableau—wonderful mixture of pathos and humour—don't know whether to laugh or cry—happy thought—shed another bitter beer.

Business meeting next day—must go—young chaps want to talk shop—must be squashed.

Knowing old Council—thorough Englishmen—don't come here to work—business be hanged—quite right, sir—what's my guinea for?—luncheon waiting—capital *ménu*—first-rate hock—fine old Scotch—good cigars—young chaps keep us waiting eh?—Shut 'em up, says Council—fine 'em ten pounds—serve 'em right—young chaps protest—no use—business-like President—knows how to cut it short—primed by Council—down on 'em—young spouters—clap on extinguisher—out of order, sir—sit down—old chaps going to be outvoted—meeting impatient—big gun from London—professional spouter—champion for Council—puts his foot in it—long oration—President tries to shut him up—shut up others—wont be shut up—got speech by heart—means to go through with it—says he can't lose his thread—ah! ah!—everybody hungry—lunch waiting—sit down, sir—orator spoils it all—resolution bust with too much wind—never mind—wait till next year.

Next meeting Plymouth—delightful place—you must be there—bring Snodgrass, Winkle, Tupman—lovely girls, very—regular nest of Corporations—Devonport, Plymouth, Stonehouse—look after us among them—keen competition—*entrée* everywhere—nothing to pay—not a bit of business—no, no!—must stop that—gorgeous treat—must be a life member—pay fifteen guineas—holidays assured for life—magnificent!

[The above extracts are taken, by kind permission of the publishers, from *The Pickwick Papers Continued*, by "Boz Secundus," which will be in the hands of the public during the next few weeks. Only Mr. Jingle's part of the dialogues has been quoted, as being his personal impressions of the meeting, though Mr. Pickwick's remarks will, perhaps, seem to many readers to be more humorous and interesting.]



MODEL REPORT FOR CONFERENCE DELEGATES.

o o o

"It is becoming yearly more difficult to report to committees anything of a tangible or practical nature resulting from these Conferences, which can be held to justify the expense of sending delegates."—*Library World*, September, 1900, page 81.

IN view of this alarming statement, the conductors of the *Library World* commissioned a well-known expert, possessing highly developed imaginative powers, to prepare a model or skeleton report, which may prove valuable to those librarian delegates who return from Library Association Conferences with nothing more tangible than a bilious attack or an inflated hotel bill. The value of these models can hardly be over estimated, and we state with pardonable pride that our well-known series of suggestions, "How to Account for Decreased Issues" has been widely used in annual reports, both in England and the United States. Without further parley we append the paper of our talented contributor, who, with characteristic modesty, desires to remain anonymous.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AT
ON SEPTEMBER

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasurable duty of reporting to you the proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, which was held this year at during the week ending The gathering was, if anything, rather larger and more representative than any preceding one I have had the honour of attending, and the delegates present included library chairmen, librarians and persons interested in library work from every part of the civilized globe, and, in addition, one young lady from the United States.

The President for the year is and he delivered a most interesting and elevating address on which will prove wonderfully suggestive and valuable when read quietly in printed form. In the discussion which followed, it was clearly demonstrated that this presidential address was quite the best ever delivered before the Library Association.

A paper on by had particular interest for me, "inasmuch as it proved beyond all doubt that our action in has been copied in other places, and has met with as much appreciation as in our own library. "I took part in the debate, and was gratified to hear the work of our institution mentioned with approval by various experts.

**Variation I.*

I took part in the debate and was able to prove conclusively that our library had adopted the system at least two days before the first library named by the reader of the paper.

**Variation II.*

I took part in the debate and was able to add my testimony to the value of the system as practically tested in our own library for over years

Another paper of great practical value was that on by which was full of suggestions which might be adopted with modifications in our own library. The proposal to is one which deserves the close attention of every progressive library authority.

"Mr. of read a lengthy paper on the a subject which, by reason of its peculiar delicacy, is not often broached at these conferences. The table of salaries attached to the paper has much interest for all members of Library Committees, inasmuch as it shows the scale of remuneration adopted in many of the chief libraries in the country. "A brief comparison will suffice to show that the salaries paid to the staff of our own library are much less than in many places where the funds are even smaller than in our own case.

**Variation I.*

A brief comparison will suffice to show that very few libraries have been treated so liberally in regard to salaries, as it has been found possible in our own library, where, thanks to an enlightened committee, and a careful handling of the finances, it is the practice to pay salaries which are more in keeping with the important duties attached to the arduous office of public librarian.

**Variation II.*

A paper by Mr. of on was much discussed, the remarks on the relation between librarians' salaries and duties being greatly criticized.

Several papers of great bibliographical and literary value were read by local experts; that entitled evoking much applause from the visitors, by reason of the claim put forward, with great ability, that for more than two centuries, had been the birthplace or temporary home of every literary genius produced during that period. Considering that Shakespeare once stayed for three days in our own town, it is rather futile for to claim him as one of its literary celebrities, simply because the stage between Stratford-upon-Avon and London happened to pass through the town. Another local paper by Mr. entitled advanced the claim that had the first collection of books which could by any stretch of courtesy be called a library, and consequently must be regarded as the pioneer town in England to establish a Public Library. This claim was hotly contested by, and, each of which sought priority on various grounds. Our own town, abounding as it does in Roman and monastic remains, can base its claim to the honour of being the first library centre in Britain on more substantial grounds

than any I heard advanced by other librarians. Other useful and valuable papers in the literary and bibliographical section were 1 . . . , 2 , 3 , 4 , 5 , 6 , 7 , 8 , 9 , 10 , 11 , 12 , 13 , 14 , 15 and 16 . . . , all of which will be perused with interest when printed in the *Library Association Record* during the ensuing ten years.

The arrangements of the local committee for the instruction and entertainment of the delegates were admirable. Visits were made under the guidance of capable *cicerone* to such places of historical interest as and , while the festive side was not neglected, the receiving delegates at a very elegant *conversazione*, attended by the *élite* of the town.

I made my customary examination of the library work carried out in the town, and submit, as usual, my garnerings:—

Cost of Central Library Building	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ Branches	...	...	...	...	...
Number of Books issued annually	...	...	...	...	...
Amount produced by the Penny Library Rate	...	...	...	...	...
Number of volumes in all the Libraries	...	...	...	...	...
Hours of opening and closing	...	...	...	...	...
Salary of Librarian	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ Sub-Librarian	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ Porter	...	...	...	...	...
Wages of Assistants	...	...	...	...	...
Number of Committee	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ „ Meetings	...	...	...	...	...
[And so on]					

The result of the voting for officers and members of the Council of the Library Association was duly announced at the Annual Meeting, and I have again the pleasure of informing you, as was previously stated in the for August 10th, that I have been re-elected a councillor for the successive year. As the competition for the office is very keen, my election may be taken as an evidence of the appreciation in which our town is held by the library world.

Variation.

I had once more the good fortune to escape the doubtful honour of election as member of the Council of the Library Association. This is all the more fortunate, since I was not nominated.

I have again to express my deep gratitude to the Library Committee for giving me the time and means for attending these extremely valuable and instructive Conferences. I obtain information of the utmost service to our readers from the papers read and the conversations held with other librarians, while the well-organized exhibitions of library work and appliances are a never failing source of interest and profit. I receive more *stimulants while attending these Conferences than during the rest of the year, and derive not a little professional *éclat* from conferring with so many leading librarians.

*Surely this should be stimulus—*Ed.*

LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

o o o

[WE have to apologize for the delay in the issue of the October number of the *Library World*, which has been caused chiefly by the removal of the publishing office to more extensive premises. In future, all communications for this journal should be addressed to the Editor, at 181, *Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.*]

THE **International Library Congress** which was held at the Sorbonne, Paris, from August 20th to August 23rd, was attended by over 200 delegates from all parts of the world; but the representation from Britain and the United States—pre-eminently *the* library countries—was disappointingly small. The Congress was run on bibliographical rather than practical lines, and the questions discussed had reference chiefly to the problems which arise in large libraries of a special kind. A goodly number of the papers were on local French topics, and the general character of the Congress was more International because of its members than on account of the matters discussed. The most interesting outcome of the Congress was the resolution to hold an international meeting on similar lines every five years.

ON Sept. 3rd, Sir Edward Fry opened, at **Weston-Super-Mare**, a new building for the free library and museum, erected at a cost of over £6,000, as a memorial of the Diamond Jubilee. A reference library valued at £4,000, and the gift of Mr. F. A. Wood, of Chew Magna, near Bristol, will find a permanent home in the new building.

Mr. F. W. **Barwick** has been appointed superintendent of the reading-room of the British Museum in the place of Mr. W. R. Wilson, whose services have been requisitioned in connection with the administration of the department of printed books.

MR. ANDREW **Carnegie** has given £5,000 to the town of Greenock, in Scotland, as a contribution towards the building fund for the new Public Library about to be established under the Acts.

A MEMORIAL tablet was unveiled in the entrance of **Sunderland Free Library**, on August 30th, by Mr. Ralph Hedley, of Newcastle, to the memory of Clarkson Stanfield, the great marine painter, who was born in Sunderland in 1793; and of his father, Field Stanfield, who lived in Sunderland, and was one of the first advocates of the emancipation of slaves.

THERE has just been formally opened at Astley Bridge, one of the added areas in connection with the extension of the **Bolton** borough boundaries, a reference library and reading-room. The handsome block of buildings formerly used as public offices by the defunct

District Council, has been utilised for the purpose. There is ample room also for the holding of technical instruction classes. Mr. J. Cross has been appointed assistant librarian in charge.

THE Free Library Committee of the **Keighley** Town Council have decided to offer prizes for the best three designs of a free library, the prizes to be of the value of £50, £30 and £20. The competition will be open to all England, and the selections will be made by an independent adjudicator. The honorary freedom of the borough to be presented to Mr. Carnegie for his valuable gift of £10,000 has been fixed for September 25th, and on the same evening Mrs. Carnegie will present the annual prizes to the students of the Trade School and Institute.

Mr. **Yorston**, of the branch of the Beveridge Library in Pathhead, Kirkcaldy, has been unanimously appointed to the librarianship of the new Kirkcaldy Library, with supervision of Pathhead branch. Mr. Yorston, who thus becomes Chief Librarian of the burgh, had his training in the Edinburgh Public Library.

At a recent meeting of the Library and Art Committee of the **Liverpool** Corporation it was reported that the late Mr. Hugh Hornby had bequeathed to the city a collection of art treasures valued at over £30,000.

WE regret to announce that Mr. **E. Gordon Duff**, M.A., Librarian of the John Rylands Library, has resigned his post. Mr. Gordon Duff undertook the charge of the library in 1893, when it was in process of formation by Mrs. Rylands, who had, not long before, purchased the famous Althorp Library from Lord Spencer. He produced the excellent general catalogue of the library, and the special catalogue of the English books printed before the end of 1640, which are familiar to all who use the library. And he took a very active part in organising the library on its present basis, and in strengthening by judicious additions the weaker sections of the great collection—a task in which he has been assisted since the summer of 1899 by his present colleague Mr. Guppy. Since the library was opened Mr. Duff has organised two very interesting exhibitions, one to show the early history of printing, and the other, which is now open, to trace the origin and progress of illustrations in early English books.—*Manchester Guardian*.

[We understand Mr. H. Guppy has been appointed Chief Librarian.]

ON September 10th, the ceremony of laying the memorial stone of the new Public Library, Assembly Hall, and Technical School for the borough of **Colne** was performed by Mr. Holmes, chairman of the Technical Instruction Committee of the Colne Corporation. The building, which, with its appointments, is expected to cost about £10,000, is a large stone structure, having a principal frontage of 125 feet to Albert Road, the main street of the borough. The Public Library has committee and librarian's rooms adjoining. The public hall will measure 84 feet by 44 feet, having galleries on three sides and

a stage. The architects are Messrs. Woodhouse and Willoughby, of Manchester.

MR J. Passmore Edwards has offered the sum of £5,000 to the Limehouse Public Library Committee, as a gift towards the erection of a library building for the district.

MR. S. L. CLEMENS ("Mark Twain") who has been residing at Dollis Hill House, Willesden (the house where Mr. Gladstone often stayed), and who sailed for America early in the month, opened a reading-room at **Kensal Rise**, on Thursday, the 27th September. The building is the commencement of the fourth library erected by the Willesden District Council. Mr. C. Pinkham, Chairman of the Committee, presided. In the course of a humorous speech, Mark Twain formally declared the room open, and said that he thought it a superbly good idea that the Legislature should not compel a community to provide itself with intellectual food, but give it the privilege of providing it for itself, if it so desired. If it was willing to have it, it would put its hand in its pocket, and bring out—the penny rate. He thought it a proof of the moral, financial, and mental condition of the community if it would tax itself for its mental food. A reading-room was the proper introduction to a library, reading up through the newspapers and magazines to other literature. In reply to a vote of thanks, he said he liked to listen to compliments. He endorsed all the mover said about the union of England and America. The seconder had alluded to his *nom de guerre*, which he was rather fond of. A little girl wrote him from New Zealand, the previous day, stating her father said his proper name was not Mark Twain, but Clemens. She knew better, because Clemens was the man who sold the patent medicine. She liked the name of Mark—why. Mark Antony was in the Bible. He replied to her that he was glad to get that expression from her, and, as Mark Antony had got into the Bible, "I am not without hopes myself."

THE Leyton Library Committee have, for the fifth time, rejected a proposal to open that institution on Sunday. There voted for Sunday opening five, against twelve.

ON Saturday Evening (15th inst.), a Socialist Meeting was held in the **Market Place, King's Lynn**, at which the principal speakers were Mr. Buskeridge, of Lincoln, and Mr. J. J. Kidd, of Lynn, who was a member of the Public Library Committee until last November, and whose exertions largely helped to bring about the adoption of the Public Library Acts in February, 1899. Mr. Kidd is very unpopular, and the crowd got angry at mention of the war, and the disorder becoming worse, the police were summoned, and Mr. Kidd and his wife were hustled through the streets, followed by an excited mob of about 2,000 persons. He and his wife took refuge in the library, and the library had to be guarded by about a dozen policemen; the crowd meanwhile singing, hooting, etc., thinking there was no way of escape. The crowd grew, and the excitement also increasing, the librarian

managed to get Mr. and Mrs. Kidd over the back walls into some Almshouses. The police allowed some of the pursuers to search the library, which they did with great eagerness, but the foe had escaped them. They continued the al fresco concert until 10 o'clock, when the library closed. They then went to Mr. Kidd's house and ventilated their grievances on his house by breaking about a dozen windows.

NORTH MIDLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE Thirty-Eighth Meeting of this Association was held at Loughborough, on Thursday, September 13th. The sittings were held at the Public Library and the Town Hall. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Robert K. Dent, his paper on "Librarians and Readers" was read by the honorary secretary, Mr. Briscoe. The paper was of a practical character, and the subject was well taken up by the members. A paper on "George Eliot's *Romola*" was contributed by Mr. F. S. Herne. This showed a thorough study of the subject, and followed very appropriately the reading of a paper at the previous meeting at Loughborough of a general paper on "George Eliot," by Mr. Andrews, the local librarian. On behalf of the Loughborough Public Library Committee, the Association was welcomed to the town by Mr. Judges, the vice-chairman, the chairman being away from town. A visit was paid to the world-wide famed bell foundry of Messrs. Taylor, where numerous bells in various stages of production were inspected. The commodious and interesting parish church was also visited. The company, which represented libraries in Notts., Leicestershire, Derbyshire, and Lincolnshire, partook of tea together in the new coffee tavern. Hearty thanks were accorded the Mayor and the Library Committee for the use of rooms for meeting, to the readers of papers, to Mr. Andrews for making the local arrangements, and to Messrs. Taylor for their courtesies.

On October 4th the Eleventh Annual Meeting was held at the University College, Nottingham. There was a large attendance of members, and the meeting was in every respect a success. On behalf of the College and Library Committee the City Librarian extended a warm welcome to the Association. The minutes of the Loughborough meeting, held on September 13th, were confirmed. Mr. Briscoe, the Hon. Secretary, presented his annual report, which showed that five meetings had been held during the year, at which eight papers had been read, besides the delivery of several addresses on library topics by the President and Secretary. This is printed in the report of the Library Association. Two members had been elected. Mr. T. Dent, the Hon. Treasurer, presented his financial statement, and Mr. Easom, the Auditor, reported upon the same. These reports were adopted. Three new members were elected, resident in Lincoln, Rugby and Nottingham. The retiring officers were thanked for their services during the year. The election of officers followed: Mr. W. Crowther, of Derby, being elected President; Mr. T. Dent, of Nottingham, Vice-President; Mr. J. Potter Briscoe, of Nottingham, Hon. Secretary (for

the seventh year); Mr. H. Bond, Lincoln, Treasurer; Mr. Willcock, Peterborough, Auditor; and Mr. T. Glover, Nottingham, representative to the Library Association. The retiring President gave an address, after which Mr. Crowther took the chair, and presented an excellent report on the proceedings of the Library Association at Bristol. A practical paper on "The Recording, Replacement, and Disposal of Worn-out Books" was read by Mr. Willcock, of Peterborough. A practical discussion ensued, in which Messrs. Radford, Kirkby, Crowther, Bond, Kenning, and Briscoe took part. Mr. G. T. Shaw, of the Liverpool Athenæum Library, contributed an interesting paper on "Bagfordising and Grangerising." The Hon. Secretary exhibited a fine specimen of local Grangerising, which was kindly lent by Mr. James Ward, and Mr. Gerring showed a specimen of a Bagfordised illustrated work. The members partook of tea at the Mechanics' Institution, after which they visited various libraries in the city. The next meeting will be held early in December. Either at Leicester or Derby.



REVIEW.

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NOTES on a Century of Typography at the University Press, Oxford, 1693-1794, with annotations and appendixes. By HORACE HART, Hon. M.A. [Super Royal XVI. 172] Oxford, 1900.

BY the courtesy of the compiler we are presented with this beautiful specimen of typographic art, and append a few notes on its contents, by an old proof-reader.

In glancing through these specimens, what first strikes us is the squareness of the separate letters, as compared with most modern founts. This refers to the larger sizes down to Pica, smaller than that the same disparity between the caps and lower case appears which disfigures most modern "old faced" types. At page 47 begins the 1695 Edition of Specimens, and these seem to be thicker letters in all respects, and possibly of softer metal. The ornaments throughout the volume are well cut, effective outlines, not depending on fine shading, but with a certain abruptness, as of a word of command, "Attention," "Pause," "Stop!" Then again, the Music Types seem to have a power to arrest the eye, lacking to more modern instances, but music is for the ear and not the eye. At page 76 there is an interesting list of "Utensils for Printing." How varied must have been the labours in a printing establishment of that day! Who worked the "Engine to make Brass Rules, with a plane?" to say nothing of the "Small Anvil" and "Four Hammers." Were the "twelve Copper Theatres" related to the "twenty-three Wooden Theatres?" Is anything left of the "seven Printing Presses, with all things belonging to them?" Where is the pressman and his pal? Is there a "P.D." left, or are they all young gentlemen now?

CORRESPONDENCE.

O O O

*To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.**September 22nd, 1900.*

DEAR SIR,—Answering your enquiry in September *Library World* I would say that I count 113 titles in your list of books for librarians (excluding supplements and new editions) of which the Salem Public Library contains 76. Of the 37 not in this library, 16 are in foreign languages, and several others are, as Mr. Dana says, of almost no use in an American library. Salem contains 37,000 inhabitants, and the library 40,000 volumes. The total number of bound volumes in the classes of Bibliography and Library Economy (Dewey's 010-019, 020-029, and 090-099) is 813. In addition, we have several hundred unbound catalogues, reports, etc. I think the showing of technical books for librarians in Springfield and Salem is not an unusual one in libraries of our size in the United States.

Yours very truly,

GARDNER M. JONES,

Salem Public Library
Salem, Mass.

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.

EXHIBITION OF LIBRARY APPLIANCES.

Many librarians were disappointed at the last two Annual Meetings of the Library Association to find that one of the most interesting features of these meetings had been omitted. I refer to the "Exhibition of Library Appliances."

The Exhibition in connection with the Belfast, Cardiff and Buxton Meetings were first rate, and afforded a happy rallying ground for librarians to discuss their own particular methods of overcoming difficulties in library work. The great advance made in every direction of library economy during the last few years, has increased the interest in new appliances, and I feel sure that other librarians besides myself would appreciate a well-organized exhibition of appliances at the forthcoming meeting at Bristol.

The American Library Association, and Australasian Library Association, make a regular practice of holding exhibitions at their Annual Meetings, and I do not see why our Association should neglect them. I hope the Council, or the Bristol Local Committee will be able to make the necessary arrangements to include an exhibition in their programme.

PROGRESS.

[This letter was unavoidably held over.—ED.]

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.

BOOK SELECTION AND ANNOTATION.

SIR,—I congratulate you upon your enterprise in accepting the suggestion of the writer of the article "Book Selection and Annotation" to publish annotated lists of new books. May I suggest that the "Dewey" classification symbol or some other standard classification symbol be added.

Some time ago I made a somewhat similar suggestion to the editor of the official organ of the Library Association. He promised to adopt it at his earliest convenience, but it is evident that after consideration he did not consider the matter of sufficient importance or usefulness for adoption in his columns.

Yours faithfully,

THOMAS ALDRED.

*St. George-the-Martyr Public Library,
Southwark.*



HAPPY THOUGHTS.

o o o

ORGANISE competition for best report of Annual Conference by librarians present. Borrowing from local newspapers will disqualify.

Similar competitions for library assistants who were not present. Competitors may borrow from local newspapers supplied by their chiefs.

Reports to be submitted to Library Committees for adjudication.

Conference of librarians for 1901, and onwards, to be joint Conferences of librarians and assistants; excursions, dinners, &c., to be planned by librarians; programme of papers to be arranged by assistants.

This scheme is sure to make all future Conferences a great success, and to render it practicable, every librarian will gladly pay expenses of self and assistant out of usual allowance, balance to be given to Assistants' Widows' Fund.



THE GERMAN LIBRARY SYSTEM.

By THOS. E. MAW, *Librarian, Public Library, King's Lynn.*

o o o

ONE would imagine that the nation of thinkers and poets—a nation enjoying the highest and best of modern elementary education—and a nation which points with pride to a province (Siebenbürger Sachsen) whose people are the best educated in the world, would have no need of such an enthusiastic advocate of the Public Library cause as Dr. Schultze.* English readers unfamiliar with Germany will be surprised and puzzled at the existing state of affairs in the German library world, for it is generally believed, in Germany and England, that the “*Volksbibliothek*” is very much like the “*Public Library*,” and the number of *Volksbibliotheken* is large enough to confirm our belief that Germany is always trying to get ahead or to keep abreast of us. The author points to the folly of raising monuments to the memory of their great writers when their works are unknown or forgotten by the people, owing to lack of opportunity for reading them. He also calls upon the nation to have a fitting Gutenberg celebration “by making it possible for books—living witnesses of this world-changing discovery—to be read by everyone, even in the remotest hamlet, instead of feasting, carousing, and parading with Chinese lanterns.” That the old German appetite is potent enough to hinder the progress of education and culture is evident. “As I write these lines, I am informed that a German University town which in many ways takes high rank, and which also has a large working-class population, is going to celebrate the matriculation of the 1,000th student. The municipal authorities had previously decided to show their appreciation of the growth of the intellectual life of their town by establishing a public reading room, which had long been projected, but which all private efforts had been unable to effect. But what did the City Fathers? They thought the 1,000th student could not be welcomed in a worthier manner than by filling him with strong drink. And how much was voted for this object? 500 Mark? or even 1,000 Mark. Oh no, not at all—but thrice that amount, 3,000 Mark! (£150). The reading room remains a project—to commemorate the intellectual importance of the town!”

Dr. Schultze lays stress upon the rights of all men to share in the national treasure, good literature. “Who has the effrontery to say,” he asks, “that it is good for him to read, but, at the same time, fears that reading would be dangerous for his uneducated brother?” That there is a strong craving for reading of some kind he amply demonstrates. Small libraries have had their stock quickly used up, and are unable to

*Dr. Ernst Schultze. *Freie Oeffentliche Bibliotheken, Volksbibliotheken, und Lesehallen*, pp. 362. Illustrations, Jannenberg, Stettin, 1900.

replace worn out books, and the enormous sale of sensational trash of the worst kind is an evil only to be remedied by the supply of pure literature by means of Public Libraries, for all legislative attempts to suppress such productions have been ineffective. The author with an enviable optimism believes the Public Library to be a panacea for most of the existing evils. "The uneducated workman who knows nothing of life but the dusty factory, the ill-ventilated sleeping room, and the reeking tap room, cannot understand what is meant by the state, and cannot believe that it has any right to exist." Immorality and crime, the daughters of drunkenness, will go the way of anarchy if reformers turn their attention to providing counter attractions to the public-house in the shape of good literature. Dr. Schultze regards the Public Library as essential to any complete system of national education. Not only does literature raise the standard of the worker as a producer, but it enlarges the spiritual and mental horizon, and, what is of great importance to a German, either calls into existence or strengthens the deepest feelings of patriotism. The building of a Public Library is one of the finest and noblest monuments they could raise in memory of the heroes who had given their lives for their country, for "on entering the library he sees the names of those who fought for freedom and right, and he must surely receive a strong impulse to read the history of his own nation, and thereby learn to love his country more and more. I can think of no war memorials more likely to really serve their purpose than these Public Libraries."

Unlike Greenwood, Dr. Schultze does not enter into the details of library management, but gives merely a brief outline of the methods of working which he has seen in the English Public Libraries. His chief concern is with the crying necessity for the establishment of Public Libraries in Germany, and the satisfactory results achieved in England and America. He condemns, in no half-hearted way, the effete institutions known as *Volksbibliotheken* (literally, People's Libraries), and asks for a library which will supply the pressing needs of all classes to-day. "The *Volksbibliothek* movement in Berlin has considerably influenced the movement throughout Germany," so it will be well to see what has been done in Berlin if we are to judge of the future prospects of the *Volksbibliotheken*. In 1847 a few professors of the Berlin University formed what we may call a University Extension Society for science lectures, with the secondary object of founding *Volksbibliotheken*. A small charge for admission to the lectures was made, and, the lecturers giving their services free, a considerable sum was acquired for the *Volksbibliotheken*, and in 1847 the Society was able to offer 12,000 Mark (£600), which the city accepted, and in 1850 the amount was increased to 18,000 Mark. On August 1st, 1850, the first four *Volksbibliotheken* were opened. They were governed by commissioners selected from the Society, and the City Councils; the City had to contribute £150 yearly, and the Society gave the proceeds of the lectures. Besides these annual contributions the Society gave an endowment of 30,000 Mark, which produced £60 a year. Altogether the Society gave the City over 100,000 Mark

(£5,000) up to the time of its dissolution in 1879. Although there are now twenty-seven small Volkshibliotheken in Berlin, there is no central library, so that their usefulness is very greatly diminished, because either the twenty-seven must buy a book, thereby necessitating wasteful and costly overlapping, or the readers of twenty-six are deprived of that particular book in the library where it has been purchased.

"The twenty-seven libraries together contain 104,356 volumes, giving an average of less than 5,000 volumes to each, and this for a city of 2,000,000 inhabitants, the capital of the Empire. The absurd hours of opening are the greatest inconvenience. It seems incredible, but it is none the less true; the majority of them are opened for only six hours weekly, and that at mid-day—Wednesday and Saturday from 12 to 2, and on Sunday, 11 to 1. That may, perhaps, have suited the times in 1850, but to-day such hours are totally inadequate. But can it be seriously thought that the lower classes can find time in the middle of the day, not only to go to the library, but to take their place in the crowd always there and wait half-an-hour or more until those before them have received their books? It really says something that, in spite of this, the use made of the library is, according to statistics, very considerable. Happily these hours of opening are now being changed; 1896-7 Nos. 1, 16, 20, and 27 were opened during the evening instead of mid-day. . . These four are open from 6 to 9 p.m., and how this tends to increase the usefulness of the library is shown by the last official report. No. 1 issued in 1895-6 only 11,528 volumes—but in 1898-9, 68,578 volumes."

Prussia contributes over 1,000,000 Mark (£50,000) annually to the University Library and the Royal Library in Berlin, but only 50,000 Mark (£2,500) for the Volkshibliotheken throughout the state. Dr. Schultz thinks no part of this money should go to the town libraries, as these are able to take care of themselves, but to the village libraries whose existence depends upon outside support.

Dr. Schultz gives well deserved praise to the Society for the Extension of Popular Education, which, since 1892, has devoted its entire attention to the founding of "Ländliche Volkshibliotheken" (Village Libraries). From August, 1892, to the end of last year, it established no less than 760 with 46,257 volumes, and gave to 343 others 10,724 volumes.

The advocates of the Public Library meet with the same unreasoning opposition and same lack of understanding as we have experienced in England. The necessity for such libraries is questioned as if the popularity of the existing libraries did not show that the people were eager for the spread of libraries throughout the land. "Then the City Fathers come with long faces and talk of the great demands upon their resources, but a fortnight afterwards the same City Fathers are ready to vote hundreds of pounds towards entertaining any congress, great or small. That, however, is the recognised thing to do, and is reported in the newspapers, but the other works silently, yet would amply repay the costs."

The author says he has "purposely almost ignored the 'Stadtbibliotheken' (Town Libraries), which so many towns possess, because the greater number do not at all represent the Public Library as understood in this book. Instead of trying to keep abreast of the times, they have slavishly followed their original plan of buying only Theology, History, and Philology, thereby making them useless except to the learned, and as their means increased during this century, they have gone on in an objectless way trying to rival the University Libraries. . . They are very little used, . . . and cost the towns enormous sums, and would be decidedly better if converted into real Public Libraries."

Dr. Schultze meets present and future objections by saying that there is no reason why German Public Libraries should not be as successful as those of England and America, for, although there are not so many men of enormous wealth in Germany as in America, yet they could surely do what had been done in England, as English Public Libraries were not so much indebted to private benefactors as to municipal enterprise. "For do we not follow England in many other things in which a few decades ago she seemed to be far ahead of us? Have we not outdistanced England in many branches of industry? Have we not so developed our commerce that England is seriously affected by it? Are we not trying to put our fleet on an equal footing with the English, as seems so desirable to friends of the navy? And then are we to resignedly take a position behind England in a matter which hitherto has always been regarded as the peculiar province of German culture—in the matter of education? Such resignation shows little spirit and little reason. . . . We must first of all have it clearly and thoroughly understood that we are here dealing with a duty imposed by civilisation which, strange to say, has been grossly neglected by us for generations, and that we owe it to our national honour and national greatness to see that we promptly and fully atone for our neglect." It will indeed be strange if at the end of the Nineteenth century such a plea as is contained in this book of nearly 400 pages can be put forth in the cause of education without producing effect. In any country it would be remarkable, but in Germany it would be incredible.

Although English librarians will feel highly pleased to read the nice things said of them and their libraries, they will not find Dr. Schultze chanting pæans to all their ways. In a brief mention of the debated "Open Access" question he says that the system commends itself to his favour, but that there is not much prospect of unanimity of opinion on this question, which is attacked and advocated by strong partizans, but the fact of opposition being made to the newer system is not to be taken into account in judging its merits, for "all English librarians are not so practical in all matters as we might have expected them to be. This is specially noticeable in the usual English practice of dividing English libraries into two parts, the Lending and Reference Libraries. It might be thought that this division only went as far as keeping in the library all purely reference works such as dictionaries, atlases, &c., and costly and sumptuous books, while all others might be issued for home reading. No, far from it. A very large part of the collection is taken

and made into a Reference Library, and nearly the whole of the science books are put into this section. Why? Because it has always been done, and also, perhaps, because the British Museum does not issue its books for home reading, and in order to make it possible for readers who are making special studies to obtain the book at any time as in the British Museum. It is, at the same time, forgotten that the British Museum serves only for special purposes, but that in a smaller town the specialists are very few, and for them there are generally science libraries, and that limiting the use of large collections of books to the Reference Library reduces its usefulness to a mere shadow. Many warning voices have been raised against the extension of the Reference Library, but I cannot go further into this matter here, and only point to the folly we would be guilty of were we to unquestioningly copy not only the good and admirable qualities of the English Public Library, but also the bad, fortunately there seems no disposition to do this."

Our Sunday is as strange to the Continental as a German Sunday is to the Scottish Presbyterian, and it is not surprising to hear that when Public Libraries are really established in Germany they will be open on Sunday. Dr. Shultze puts the case for Sunday opening just as strongly as do all who advocate a rational Sunday, but even those who would open all Public Libraries on Sundays must notice that the British artisan does not crowd his fellow in the reading-rooms on Sundays. However, conditions are different in Germany. The conscientious objector who regards Sunday opening as sinful (the difficulty of staff can be overcome by employing Jews as in Birmingham) receives no mercy at Dr. Schultze's hands. "It is to be hoped that we shall remain free from such aberrations; happily it is an understood thing that we shall have Sunday opening when the time comes."

This book will certainly interest German readers and ought to be of interest to English librarians, for the survey of Public Library work covers the world. The photographic illustrations might have been more numerous; in this edition they are limited to pictures of typical libraries. The prevailing opinion in Germany and England is that the "Volksbibliothek" and "Public Library" are identical; there is now no longer excuse for belief in this popular fallacy.

Dr. Schultze concludes finely by saying that to cool, calculating reason the establishment of Public Libraries now appears to be a pressing necessity, and this necessity is more and more recognised by every generous nature. "'And though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.' Love for our fellow-men—surely that will help us to do what we acknowledge to be our duty. True, many difficulties are to be overcome, but if the right spirit is in us, the tide of hope shall sweep away all barriers."



GRIEVANCES OF A FREE LIBRARY READER.

III. *By* HORACE J. O'BRIEN.

o o o

THE task of the reformer is a thankless one, requiring not only a hard skull and a thick skin, but an inexhaustable stock of patience and tolerance for the obliquity of interested opponents. My little list of grievances, modestly put forward as suggestions for improvement, are airily referred to as the work of a grumbling ratepayer and a furious Irishman, by two writers, who, in the same breath, have the assurance to agree that most of my complaints are based upon facts! What matters the status or nationality of a reformer, provided he states shortcomings which have come under his own observation? And who, pray, has a better right to grumble than a ratepayer, who is also supposed to be an Irishman? Mr. Anstee does me the injustice of assuming that my statements are directed against all the Public Libraries of England, while a "Provincial Librarian," harping on the same string, specifies, by way of challenge I presume, certain immaculate libraries, which he evidently thinks are above criticism, though possibly included by implication in my previous strictures on badly managed public libraries. I should like it to be plainly understood that my remarks refer only to the institutions I have actually visited, in towns to which my occupation has called me, and I take it for granted that the very considerable number I have visited, may be regarded as a fair sample of the whole. Three of the "progressive" libraries in the towns named by a "Provincial Librarian" are well-known to me, and I possess copies of their lending department catalogues, which are models of compilation for the man who *knows what he wants*, and at the same time useless and misleading guides for the man who *doesn't*—and he is practically 95% of the general public. For obvious reasons, I cannot specify any particular library by name, for my experience as a journalist has taught me the unwisdom of making pointed references when general ones will serve as well. Moreover, I have no special grievance against any single Public Library, nor do I wish anything but prosperity and progress all round, but I think neither of these will ever be fully attained if candid and helpful criticism is to be unmercifully burked, especially when it comes from a ratepayer. After all is said, a Public Library is not the special perquisite of the librarian, but the property of grumbling ratepayers, who have a perfect right as business men, to get the best value possible for their money. The idea that a Public Library is a sort of charitable institution, run by, and at the expense of foolish ratepayers for the exclusive benefit of the custodians, is not a new one, and is strengthened not a little by the airs which certain library officials assume towards their employers. Mr. Anstee accuses me of having stated "that a librarian performs the routine of his office as though dispensing a

charity," but I never said anything of the sort, and he could only have evolved such a notion from his own inner consciousness, knowing that, in many libraries, this is the traditional official view. I am not aware that I even suggested such an idea in my last article, but if I have, it was certainly unintentional. My own views on the subject are precisely the opposite. If there is any charity in the matter at all, it is dispensed by the ratepayers, and not by their servants. Reverting now to "a Provincial Librarian's" financial arguments, which practically boil themselves down to this:—How can we run libraries in your extravagant way on £500 a year? I respond that the question resolves itself into one of degree. It is possible for a capable man with a head upon his shoulders, to give the ratepayers in a small town as good value for their £500, as another librarian in a large town could give with twice the income at his command. He certainly cannot attain to the same volume or quantity of work as his *confrère* with more means, but he can maintain a high *quality* as far as his funds will go, and this is all I ask. My strictures on bad catalogues, or at any rate wrongly constructed and executed catalogues, apply as much to the library with an income of £4,000 per annum, as to the one with only £500 or less per annum. My concern is not with the amount of work accomplished by a certain library in a given time, but entirely with the methods in vogue for doing that work. As there are various right and wrong ways of doing everything, so I contend are there good and bad methods of library management, and my experience is, on the whole, rather adverse to the contention of my opponents that English Public Libraries are as well conducted as it is possible to conduct them—for the money. I have given good reasons for my belief that the libraries known to me are not conducted so happily as they might be, and I have particularly mentioned the style of cataloguing as being bad beyond measure. Mr. Anstee alludes to some bitter controversy about cataloguing which has been of recent occurrence, and imagines he has snuffed me out by assuming that the person who does *not* want a particular book, will not be interested in it, however much it may be annotated and described. I know nothing about this controversy, though I am not surprised at its occurrence, especially if it has any connection with the absurdly inadequate library catalogues to be seen on every side. But I do know that books, like everything else, have a mighty poor chance of being intelligently read, much less intelligently selected, if people are to be informed of their contents only by what happens to be on their title-pages. The whole matter of intelligent book selection under this dispensation, at once degenerates into a hugh raffle, and readers are compelled to trust to luck in their choice of books, owing to the librarian's traditional dislike to furnish information which might give him some trouble to obtain. It is a monstrous pity librarians are not forced to undergo an apprenticeship on the public side of the counter, under the rules and regulations which have been so carefully drafted for the purpose of saving the skin of officials at the expense of the general public. We would then have a different idea of the sort of *esprit de corps* which librarians should cultivate among themselves!

It is a grievance, and one about which more will be heard in the future, that public librarians should confound Jack-in-Officeism, with genuine, helpful work in the public interest. The mere discipline of unruly boys in a public institution is one of the least important functions which librarians are called upon to discharge, but it is the one on which most of these gentlemen appear to expend their greatest energy. A rule, of cast-iron rigidity, to exclude a stranger from the other side of the borough boundary, is considered of much more serious import than any question affecting the internal economy of the library, or the convenience and special needs of readers, and till this method is reversed, ratepayers will continue to grumble, and librarians will lay themselves open to all kinds of criticism. I only wish they would endeavour to profit by salutary comments such as mine, instead of wasting time in the vain effort to prove that all the faults are on the side of grumbling ratepayers!



A NEW BOOK NUMBER.

By L. STANLEY JAST, Chief Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries.

o o o

THERE can be no question, of course that, the best arrangement of books on the shelves, after the more important arrangement in classes is complete, is the author-alphabetic. Equally will it "go without saying" that a system of numbering which will secure this is superior to any other system which does not—abstractly considered. But one can pay too dearly for anything, and I have on more than one occasion expressed the opinion—an opinion shared, I think, by most English librarians—that the admirable Cutter numbers devised to this end are too troublesome to apply and too complex to be worth their cost, at anyrate in a lending library, where it is so important that charging numbers should be as simple and as difficult to confuse as possible. That American staffs do not seem to find them so may be due to the more careful and intelligent service they can command at the counter than is the case over here, where the boy element is large. Moreover there is no necessity for special marks, books can be kept in proper order without them, as they are in many libraries. But there are cases, especially in some reference libraries, where some kind of mark, which shall patently fix a book in its place in relation to other books, and by which alone it may be at once found, even by the most unintelligent assistant or by one unfamiliar with the library, is an obvious convenience. If the librarian objects to the Cutter marks on the grounds of (*a*) the foresight needed in applying them to escape occasional impasses or unduly long numbers, and (*b*) the more serious inconvenience of the altering of marks already given to avoid the same alternatives—the complexity objection is of

little importance in a reference library—he must choose between no alphabetic order, or that attained by using the first letter of the author combined with a simple numerical sequence—so far as published schemes (within my knowledge) go. But many librarians might welcome a scheme which got rid of the objections mentioned above at the cost of an absolute alphabetic order, substituting therefore an approximate order much closer than that yielded by the single letter, and retaining the other valuable features of the Cutter author notation.

I suggest the following, on which I shall be glad to have criticisms—gladder still to have an improved or a better system put before the readers of the *Library World*. Here is a chance for the young librarian, who *will* waste his energies on saying nothing new about classed and dictionary catalogues, or about the Dewey classification.

In the scheme proposed, then, the author number consists of the first *two* letters of the author's name. Names commencing with the same two letters are distinguished by figures, 1, 2, 3, etc. Thus La Fontaine will be marked LA, Lamartine LA1, and so on. The marking of course is independent in each class number, but all works by the same author coming in the same class will take the same author number. Authors already in the library will be arranged in strict alphabetic order, but added authors whose letters are already used will be numbered in order of arrival. Thus, if in a class we have Johnson and Joyner marked respectively JO and JO1, and Jones is added, he will be marked JO2. Then if Jobson has to be provided for, he will be JO3.

In Fiction, and in such a class as the Dewey 820 English Literature, use three letters of the name. Some may prefer to use three letters throughout. For quartos two letters will be sufficient in all cases; and for folios one letter will serve.

The work mark, distinguishing the various works of an author which are brought together by the class and author marks, is the initial letter of the title, preceded by a point, which serves to separate it from the author number when the two are printed or written in a line. Other titles commencing with the same letter are marked 1, 2, &c., in addition, as in the author number. Thus Shakspeare's "Macbeth" will be SHA.M, his "Merchant of Venice," SHA.M1 his "Midsummer Night's Dream," SHA.M2. The author number alone, without any work mark, will stand for the collected works of an author. Hence Shakspeare's works will be SHA, and will precede the individual plays. But it will not be necessary to reserve the author number standing alone for collected works when there are no, and are not likely to be any, collected works to provide for. Thus, mark Bloomfield's "The Farmer's Boy" simply BLO. Similarly Soyer's "Modern Housewife" will be SO. Then if his "Cookery for the People" comes in it will go as SO.C. But if there are many works it will be better to give work marks to all, so that no work will be thrown out of its approximate alphabetic order.

Duplicates and different editions are to be distinguished by lower case letters. A second copy of Shakspeare's works will be SHAA, a

third SHAb, a second copy of his "Macbeth," SHA.Ma, of his "Merchant of Venice," SHA.M1a.

Works about an author should range with the author written of, after his works—except lives. Give such works the author number of the subject, and for work mark the initial of the author's name, using the plus sign instead of the point to divide from the author number. Thus Dowden's "Mind and Art of Shakspeare," will be SHA÷D, his "Shakspeare Primer," SHA÷D1, the added figure signifying either another work by the same author, or a different author with the same initial. It is to be understood that work numbers with the point precede those with the plus.

Works about a particular work will take the mark of the work treated, lower case lettets x-z being reserved for the additional mark needed to distinguish them from duplicates and other editions. Thus Scott's "Some Notable Hamlets of our Time" will be SHA.Hx, another book on Hamlet would be SHA.Hy, so coming after the Hamlet texts, marked SHA.H, SHA.Ha, SHA.Hb, SHA.Hc, &c.

On tags and cards these numbers should be written fractionally, thus:—

821
SHA
.H

Letters should be written in a print hand, and care should be taken to distinguish quite clearly between upper and lower case letters. It may be objected that readers cannot be depended on to write the call numbers with equal care, and this may cause confusion to the staff. This, however, is not so. As an example, if a reader writes CHA-HA for CHA.Ha, the assistant knows that any letter following the first letter of the work mark can only be a "copy" letter. The only instance where temporary confusion might be caused would be the writing of CHA.HI for CHA.Hi where the assistant instead of reading "i" copy of book H might read book H1. This could be obviated by excluding "i" from the lower case alphabet, but inasmuch as the doubt could only happen in a case where a library had more than nine copies of a work it is not worth while legislating for. But in writing figure One let it be made thus, 1, not I, which it is difficult to tell from a capital I.

Mark Individual Biography by the first three letters of the biographee, with the initial of the author as work mark. Distinguish from another author of the same initial by figures, as in works about an author.

Now let me tabulate exactly what the above scheme of numbers gives us. It does not ensure a strict alphabetic order, but:—

- (a) It gives us an approximate alphabetic order which, in a large number of instances, will be also a strict alphabetic order.
- (b) It brings all the works of an author in a given class together, and in alphabetic order as far as the first letter of title. It also brings collected works in front of individual works, and all copies of a work arrange side by side.

- (c) It brings general works about an author immediately after his own works, and if about a particular work, immediately after that work.
- (d) The numbers are easily applied, requiring no calculation or foresight.
- (e) The numbers are unchangeable.

(d) and (e) are the gain received for dispensing with perfect alphabetic order, and I am inclined to think the exchange is a good one. The great advantage of the Cutter author and work marks is that knowing the author of the book sought one can find it without troubling about any marks. To a considerable extent this is secured by the above system also. In few subjects can it happen that when an author has been tracked as far as the second or third letter the book wanted is very far away.

And what advantage an absolute alphabetic order has over an approximate order like the above disappears, be it remembered, in the not infrequent event of an insufficient lettering on the back or a slight misplacement.

To show how the numbers work out practically I append some entries from a page of the "Catalogue of A. L. A. Library," but I have put the numbers at the end of entries in one line, not at the commencement in fractional form as in the original :—

SCHAFF & GILMAN. Library of Poetry for Sunday Reading.

Q.	...	...	...	...	...	q821	SCH
SCOTT.	Poetical Works	...	...	...	...	821	SCO
SHAIRP.	Aspects of Poetry	...	...	...	...	821	SHA
SHELLEY.	Complete Poetical Works	...	...	...	...	821	SHE
SOUTHEY.	Poetical Works	...	...	...	...	821	SOU
SPENSER.	Poems	...	...	...	...	821	SPE
STEDMAN.	Victorian Poets	...	...	...	...	821	STE
STEVENSON.	Child's Garden of Verses	...	...	...	...	821	STE1
SWINBURNE.	Atalanta in Calydon	...	...	...	...	821	SW1A
	Poems and Ballads	...	...	...	...	821	SW1P
	Songs Before Sunrise	...	...	...	...	821	SW1S
	Songs of Two Nations	...	...	...	...	821	SW1S1
TENNYSON.	Works	...	...	...	...	821	TEN
	Death of Æneme ; Akbar's Dream and other Poems	...	...	...	...	821	TEN.D

NOTE.—The above system may also be applied so as to maintain perfect alphabetical order, like the Cutter number. I will treat of this in a supplementary article.



WHERE DO WE GET OUR LIBRARIANS?

By JAMES D. BROWN, *Librarian, Clerkenwell Public Libraries.*

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ABOUT four years ago I compiled a rough chart, showing the Schools of Librarianship existing among British Public Libraries, which was exhibited at a monthly meeting of the Library Association and provoked considerable interest and amusement. Subsequently I invited additions to this chart, which produced several corrections in the lists of disciples and descendants of the various schools. On comparing my original chart with the fuller information about the succession of Public Libraries given in the "British Library Year Book," 1900 and 1901, I find that most of my conjectural dates were wrong, while my tables did not succeed in showing exactly how many Public Libraries were officered from any given library of older standing. A single specimen from my original chart will serve to show its plan and limitations. Being based on the idea of showing the influence of different Schools of Librarianship on the establishment of new libraries, by officers trained in these schools, it was erroneous in nearly every case where I failed to trace the first librarian of a new library, and where he was trained:—

SOUTH SHIELDS SCHOOL.

Newcastle-on-Tyne	Halifax	Battersea	Bromley
<i>begat</i>	<i>begat</i>		
Croydon	Clapham		
Hornsey	Harrogate		
Huddersfield	Stoke Newington		
Kingston-on-Thames	Enfield		
St. Saviour	Peterborough		
St. George-in-East			
Streatham			
Workington			

This table is wrong as far as Workington is concerned, the original librarian having been a Wigan man, and Croydon is also, strictly speaking, incorrect, as the first librarian came from Leek, though he did not live to accomplish much. These cases typify the difficulties connected with the compilation of a correct Table of Schools of Librarianship, and when to these are added each librarian's intermediate training stages in various libraries besides his first one, the difficulties become unsurmountable. I have, therefore, confined myself to a series of simple tables showing the libraries which have been the most fertile training schools for the chief librarians of the present time. They show how many librarians have been furnished by each parent library, and the number of ramifications. Beyond this I have not attempted to proceed, because it is hopeless to try and reconcile any librarian's present ideas on methods with his original training, or to take stock of any modifications imposed upon him by any course of experience in

intermediate libraries. For example, it is customary to claim for Newcastle-on-Tyne, every librarian who left that Public Library direct, to take up a chief post elsewhere. Thus the librarians of Lambeth, Sunderland, &c., are usually regarded as Newcastle men, without regard to their original training. I have departed from this view, and have counted every librarian concerned as hailing from the town in which he *first* received his training.

My chief reason for publishing this information is to set at rest once and for all, the many claims put forward on behalf of different towns to have furnished more chief librarians than any other place. It is a very laudable and virtuous act to exalt the town and library responsible for one's professional existence, and if it can be done with a fair measure of accuracy, it is a good thing to do. It is often done, and I have seen statements in the press claiming the honour of being the chief centre of library intelligence for Newcastle-on-Tyne, Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham. As a matter of fact, Newcastle is the chief public claimant for pre-eminence in this respect, and I have suffered so often from these ill-founded manifestations of the cock-a-doodle-do spirit, that I am glad to be able at last to knock the claims of the Tynesiders into a cocked hat, and to display them in their proper place as mere outsiders in the race. Even when librarians who did not receive their original training at Newcastle are counted in, it is still a long way behind Birmingham, which stands easily first as the Public Library which has furnished more chief librarians than any other three or four towns in the United Kingdom. If librarians are added who have passed through Birmingham *en route* to other places, the ascendancy of that city would be enormously increased. However, I content myself with facts, and now submit the following Tables showing the towns which have procured librarians from the Public Libraries of Birmingham, Liverpool, Leeds, Manchester, and elsewhere, together with the towns which have been officered in their turn by pupils of the original libraries. There are a number of libraries which have supplied a librarian to one other town, but I have restricted my Tables to libraries which have officered *two* other towns:—

TABLE

BIRMINGHAM	BIRMINGHAM, Glasgow, Clerkenwell:
Acton	Penzance
Aston Manor	Rothwell
Bristol	Darwen
Ealing	Fulham
Harlesden	Griarsby
Glasgow	Kilnarnock
Glasgow Athenæum	St. Martin and St. Paul
„ Baillie's Institute	Lambeth
„ Stirling's Library	Leicester Permanent
Clerkenwell	Newington
Bournemouth	Oldbury
Kettering	Putney

BIRMINGHAM	SOUTH SHIELDS
Richmond	Battersea
Sunderland	Chester
Wandsworth	Bromley
Chiswick	Clapham
Warrington	Leeds Institute
Wednesbury	LEEK
West Bromwich	Shoreditch
West Ham	Edmonton
LIVERPOOL	Cripplegate Institute
Bermondsey	Huddersfield
Birkenhead	Newcastle-under-Lyme
Newport	EDINBURGH
Peterborough	Hawick
Bishopsgate Institute	Dumbarton
Chelsea	Kidderminster
Swansea	Kirkcaldy
Handsworth	BARROW
Whitechapel	Lincoln
LEEDS	Millom
Cheltenham	Stoke Newington
Evesham	BOLTON
Penge	Nottingham
Cork	Hampstead
Hull	St. Helens
Leicester	SOUTHPORT
Sheffield	Kendal
Hove	Newark-on-Trent
MANCHESTER	Southampton
Dewsbury	WOLVERHAMPTON
Hanley	Brentford
Longton	Eastbourne
Leeds	Shrewsbury
Oldham, Lyceum	ABERDEEN
Yarmouth	Perth
West Hartlepool	Wallasey
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	CARDIFF
Hornsey	Carlisle
St. George-in-the-East	East Ham
St. Saviour	GATESHEAD
Streatham	Belfast
Workington	King's Lynn
SALFORD	KENSINGTON
Hereford	Poplar
Reading	Railway Clearing House
Gloucester	ROCHDALE
Wimbledon	Oldham
St. George the-Martyr	Redruth

The interesting question of nationality may be briefly dismissed. Out of 338 libraries actually established and working, 263 have English librarians, 38 have Scotch, 18 Irish, and 18 Welsh. There is also one American. The number of librarians who have received training in library work previous to their advent as chiefs is greater than formerly, but there are still far too many places in the hands of untrained men. Roughly, there are 154 trained librarians, including men who have graduated from subscription libraries, mechanics' institutes, &c., and 184 untrained librarians. A few of the untrained men have entered the profession from the ranks of allied callings, such as booksellers (ten), schoolmasters (four), and journalists (three), but otherwise, the majority had no qualification beyond heaven-born gifts which have not yet been conspicuously manifested. It is a somewhat curious fact that every advance and improvement in library work of the slightest value, have come from the ranks of the trained men. The untrained men are mighty critics as a rule, and as such have a value, but they seem to lack the enthusiasm and interest in library matters which trained men possess. I cannot recollect a single contribution to library science which has come from an untrained man, in all my experience of the work, but I make this statement subject to the correction of any better informed librarian. I have no particular grudge against untrained librarians, because I number many of them among my friends, but I think, on the whole, they impede progress in library work, and are largely responsible for the dilettante trifling of the Library Association.



NEWSPAPER RACK FOR BOUND VOLUMES.

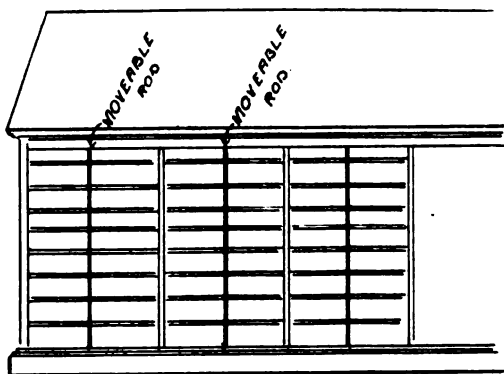
By ARCHIBALD SPARKE, *City Librarian, Carlisle.*

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IF the "British Museum Bill" ever passes, enabling the Trustees to distribute the bound volumes of the various provincial newspapers to the county towns, some provision will have to be made by the Library Committees for the safe keeping and ready reference of these valuable records. To this end I desire to call the attention of your readers to a rack which my committee have had built in the Reference Department of this institution, to contain the local press of this city, which dates back to the end of last century.

The rack is built to hold 150 volumes, is 3-ft. high, 2-ft. 3-in. broad, and 33-ft. long, with a sloping top upon which the book rests when in use. Each volume has a shelf to itself, the shelves being all of uniform size, and slightly larger than the volume to allow of its easy removal. Having in view the possible increase in the size of newspapers, I have had the shelves made to slide in and out.

The case is made throughout in pitch pine, except the shelves, which are only faced with this wood, it is polished and is of very good appearance, matching the bookcases, tables and chairs in the room. You will see from the illustrations that each section of shelves is locked up by means of a moveable brass rod. This rod drops into a slot, the top of it is battered flat and a hole pierced in it which goes into a staple, through which a small padlock is fastened. This security I found to be very necessary, as there seemed to be amongst our visitors an irresistible fascination to consult the file of the local papers, and if two visitors got together they were unable to pass the various items of news without discussion and sometimes argument. This, of course, led to breaking the rule of "Silence," and the most effectual means of stopping this was to lock up the papers, of course, this does not in any way prevent anyone from having recourse to them for the purpose of reference when necessary by application at the counter, the wear and tear is thus reduced to a minimum, and they are far too valuable as records of local history to be "open access."



On October 19th the foundation stone of the "Passmore Edwards **Limehouse** District Public Library" was laid with little formality, but much rejoicing. Mr. F. C. Mills, the Chairman of the Library Commissioners, of course, presided, and was supported by his fellow-Commissioners, by Mr. J. T. Winkworth, Hon. Sec., Mr. G. H. McCall, Librarian, the Rev. A. E. Dalton, Rural Dean, the Architect (Mr. W. Clarkson), Mr. H. S. Samuels, M.P., Mr. W. Pearce, L.C.C., and the Rev. F. Gurdon. In the course of the speech making, it was made clear that the library would be commodious, and altogether well-furnished. The book shelves of the lending department will have room for about 10,000 books. The building will be in pure Renaissance style, the architectural features being of Portland stone.

NOTES ON JUVENILE LIBRARIES.

By EDWARD GREEN, *Librarian of the Akroyd Branch of the Halifax Public Libraries.*

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IT is universally admitted that the benefits young children derive from having access to adequate and well-selected collections of books are very great indeed, and experience has proved that where youngsters of from six to eight years and upwards have this advantage, they have not been slow in showing their appreciation.

Hitherto the general practice, when organising a Public Library, has been to include a juvenile section, and in many towns this has been supplemented by loans of specially selected books from the Public Library to the elementary schools. The fact of loaning out collections to the schools, proves, I think, that the Public Library alone as a distributing centre is not sufficient to reach all the juvenile readers in a given district. Some may imagine that the same argument holds good with regard to those of older growth, but a moment's consideration will prove it does not, because whilst it is quite unreasonable to expect young children to travel any great distance for the books, it is no hardship for older folk to go a mile or even more to the Public Library.

The system of having juvenile libraries in schools, might, I think, with advantage be extended to the extent of making them the *solo* distributing centres of young people's reading, as in my opinion, a Public Library fulfils its functions by catering adequately for those who are past school age. In such towns where Public Libraries are already in existence, and possessing collections of juvenile books, I would suggest co-operation between the library and school authorities, with a view to transferring all suitable books and distributing them amongst all the elementary schools of the district, so that each school would have a juvenile library attached for the use of its scholars. In most cases, no doubt, it would be found that to provide adequately, large additions would have to be made to the existing stocks of books, as with a larger number of distributing centres, greater demands would be made for the books. But the expense would be quite justifiable, and would not prove a serious difficulty in progressive communities.

The result of this change would be that all children would enjoy the same facilities for reading, through the better distribution of the books, and the Public Library would gain immensely by being freed from the necessity of providing for, and having youngsters mixing with its ordinary readers. In the older libraries, which have become somewhat congested, and where space is a consideration, the removal of the juvenile section would prove a great relief by providing increased space for the due development of the other departments, and besides, the older readers would have much more comfort in their use of the library. Unless a special room can be provided for juveniles at a Public Library—

and this is not always possible—they prove a drawback to the general interests of the institutions, and are better provided for in the way suggested.

I feel quite sure that the elementary school is the best distributing centre for children's books ; and if the books provided are well selected, and the work of supplying them is intelligently done, only the best results can accrue. I am also of opinion that the cost, or the greater part of it, of establishing and maintaining school libraries should be charged to elementary education, and not be borne by the Public Library. In towns where the Public Libraries' Acts have not been put into operation, I would suggest that no provision be made at the Public Library (when organised) for supplying books to young children of school age, but that efforts be made by the co-operation of school and library authorities, to organise juvenile libraries in each of the elementary schools.

The suggestions in these notes refer exclusively to the supply and distribution of juvenile literature, and are not at all concerned with the use of schools as general Branch Public Libraries for the supply of books to both children and grown-ups, as, for various reasons, I believe the latter can have their wants much better supplied at the Public Library in the ordinary way.



LIBRARY AND MUSEUM JOURNALS.

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THE *Public Library Journal* issued at the Cardiff Free Library is conspicuous among local library publications. Those of its pages which are devoted to notes and news of the central and branch libraries have oft been noticed in the *Library World*, but it seems desirable to draw more attention to the Museum Notes which appear in the same publication. Cardiff is fortunate in having two enthusiastic men—Mr. Ballinger, in the office of chief librarian, and Mr. J. Ward as curator of the museum—and their literary co-operation produces the always interesting journal.

We venture to suggest that all towns fortunate enough to possess museums, might do well to encourage similar notes of additions to their collections and other matter. Needless to say, the mere publication of donors' names frequently leads other townfolk to follow the good examples. It is noteworthy, too, that the benefactors whose names one reads often are not of the town concerned, but kindly disposed individuals living, perhaps, far away. Apart from this more selfish view there is the higher ground of the spread of interest in museum collections among those who regard a museum as a place in which there may be some pretty things to be cursorily looked at, but do not dream of the life-long tastes which may be created by the devotion of time to a careful examination of some particular branch of knowledge represented in the collections.

Of such tastes, call them "hobbies" if you will, many a person could tell by experience the value in after-life—may be only the negative value of giving man or woman something to think of outside the worries and vexations of daily life, or, may be, the starting of original investigations which eventually prove of benefit in wide circles of knowledge.

We meant to say something in detail of the Cardiff curator's section of the Journal, but must be content at present to have used it as the text for this little sermon upon the desirableness of similar efforts in other towns.



CONFERENCE CHIPS.

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"**Q**UITE an enjoyable time," said one who had been at most of our Conferences, as the London train left Bristol on Saturday morning; and the sentiment was re-echoed by all in the smoking compartment.

TALKING of smoking, the smoker on Wednesday was a huge success. The Bristolan talent was of a very high order, and so was that of the guests, as shown by our friends Crowther and Turner. The programme will be preserved by many for its characteristic illustrations by Mr. L. A. Taylor, of the Bristol Museum and Library.

A FEW *obiter dicta* from the meetings are worth remembering. One Bristol member was overheard asking "Who is the gentleman who talks so much of Tom Paine?" meaning thereby the genial ex-mayor of Salford!

At the business meeting we were very much impressed by the arguments of a fervid London member of Council, who said that he "would now gather up the threads of his argument, and, with one blow, drive them home."

IN the discussion on Selection of Books a Midland librarian deplored the formation of Book Committees, and wished that gentlemen would be placed thereon "who occasionally read a book." A remark received with chilling silence by the committee-men present.

ON the same occasion, Mr. Carter naively told us, that when he wished to know the character of any book he turned it over to some reader in whose judgment he trusted, got his opinion, and so saved his own time. This seems a good idea, and no doubt in each town someone could be found to act as "foolometer" and sample the doubtful fiction.

SIR WILLIAM BAILEY was in great force at the dinner. He told a good story of a man from Oldham who sang a song very badly, and was told by one of his hearers that he would not kill him, but he certainly would kill the man who asked him to sing. The serious side of Sir William's speech was a commentary on the epigram that "Civilisation is distribution."

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IMPRESSIONS OF THE BRISTOL CONFERENCE.

SYMPOSIUM II.

WE have received several communications from Librarians, who do not wish their names published, for this series of Impressions of the L. A. meeting at Bristol. Some of these are but echoes of opinions already printed, though all make the same complaint as to the absence of practical discussions. It is quite evident from the tone of the communications we have already made public, that the future Conferences of the Library Association will have to be organized on much more practical lines, if a serious conflict is to be avoided. We have seen no mention made of the somewhat important consideration, that a full programme of practical discussions will relieve the local authorities in towns visited by the L. A. from much of the trouble and expense of arranging for elaborate afternoon excursions. Surely this aspect of the question deserves more attention.

"THE Bristol Conference has been a great success from the social point of view, but hardly so from a business standpoint. The papers were of a higher literary merit than usual, but, unfortunately, those that were read did not provide much opportunity for discussion. I regret this very much, for my opinion is that the discussions on technical points are most useful, and bring out diversities of opinion and practice which are most helpful.

The question of Dictionary *v.* Class Catalogues had been looked forward to by many as the *piece de resistance* of the meeting. It was crowded out, and the three papers which had been carefully arranged to give opposing views of the question had to be taken as read.

The difficulty experienced by the Council in arranging the programme arises from the fact that precedence must be given to the local papers contributed by our hosts. It might be partially met by an understanding that the Conference should meet in London each fifth year; that at these London meetings no papers of a local character should be read, but that all should be of a practical nature; and that hospitality be reduced to a minimum, so that ample time would be allowed for full discussion of the programme."

FRA. J. BURGOYNE,

Lambeth Public Libraries.

"I suggest that papers on bibliography, and librarianship generally, should not be excluded in favour of papers, descriptive of local institutions and local library associations. The latter should be distributed in pamphlet form and taken as read. Our committees do not send us to hear such papers—however pleasant they may be."

"At this place, whenever the question of sending representatives to the Library Association is considered, the question is always asked, 'What good do these meetings do? Hadn't you better buy some books with the money you will spend?' It is only by paying an eloquent tribute to the merits of the Association, and the great and lasting benefits derived therefrom that the committee are induced to allow their librarian to attend at all. This year, when the report of the meetings (which included not only what took place, but also what ought to have taken place) was submitted, it met with the chilling remark by the BOSS of the committee, who had hitherto supported the sending of a representatives, 'Is that all that took place? If so, I consider the money wasted.'

I have attended the meetings for the last few years, and have made a number of friends among my brother librarians, but now, alas! I shall see them no more. I am afraid I have attended my last meeting, except in the unlikely event of the Association visiting this choice spot, and all due solely and entirely to the lack of practical results.

The six shillings per year spent on *The Library World* is of far greater practical value to librarians than the £8 or £10 spent on the Library Association."



PROPOSED NORTHERN COUNTIES BRANCH OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE preliminary meeting of Librarians interested in this movement was held at Bristol University College, on Monday, September 24th, 1900. There was not a large attendance, as the number of librarians attending the Conference was very limited, but from the number of replies to the circular sent out the proposal has met with the approval of all the most prominent librarians in the north. The replies were read by the Acting Secretary, at the meeting. The chief subjects of discussion were: The Geographical Difficulty, The question of Special Fares (the Railway Companies having refused to make any concessions), The Number and Place of Meetings to be held annually, and the question of making the Association a Branch of the L. A. U. K., or a separate society, so that all persons interested in library work, and not members of the chief association, could become members.

After considerable discussion on the Geographical Difficulty, the librarians of Yorkshire decided to form an Association of their own, and the librarians of the four most northern counties decided that a preliminary meeting of all persons interested in library work should be called at the Edward Pease Public Library, Darlington, the second

week in February. The question of a Branch, or a Society, to be discussed at this meeting. Librarians who are unable to attend this meeting are particularly requested to send a member of their staff as a delegate for them.

The meeting was fixed for the second Monday in February, but to suit local arrangements the date has been altered to Wednesday of the same week.

There were present at this meeting, Mr. Frank Pacy, Secretary, Library Association; Mr. J. H. Quinn, Chelsea; Mr. Madeley, representing the North Western Branch; Mr. Ald. Popplewell, Chairman, Library Committee, Bradford, and the following librarians:—Mr. Hand, Leeds (Chairman), Messrs. Anderton (Newcastle), Wood (Bradford), Smith (Dewsbury), Hill (Sunderland), Johnston (Gateshead), Hudson (Middlesbrough), Sparke (Carlisle), Formby (Liverpool), Watkins (West Hartlepool), Arrowsmith (Darlington), Byers (Harrowgate), and Purvis (Workington), Acting Secretary.



LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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By the time this note appears, the new **Borough Councils** for London will have been elected, and the serious business of arranging about committees and officers entered upon. We think it highly probable that most of the big boroughs like Islington, St. Pancras, and Paddington will now fall into line with the other London boroughs by adopting the Public Libraries' Acts. A fair number of the addresses which have been issued, place the provision of Public Libraries as a matter of urgency, and as the old vestries in most of the parishes lacking libraries were, on the whole, favourable, it is almost certain that the new councils will lose little time in adopting the Act. The question of dealing with surplus officers is causing much speculation, if not anxiety, in some quarters, and it has been stated by the dominant party in one central London borough that all duplicate officers will be got rid of at as little expense as possible. It is to be hoped that this does not represent the general attitude in boroughs made up of several library areas, or great hardships will undoubtedly ensue.

THE people of **Wakefield** and **Rugeley** are agitating for the establishment of Free Public Libraries, and it is likely that in both places the question will be brought forward at a very early date.

MR. PETER **Cowell**, Librarian of the Liverpool Free Libraries, has just returned from an extended tour of the Continent. Travelling with Mr. J. P. Edmond, Lord Crawford's librarian, Mr. Cowell visited many of the better-known libraries of Europe. He was especially charmed with the libraries of Munich, Vienna, Venice, Milan, and Padua, where most of his time was spent.

AT Roman Road, **Bow**, on October 19th, the foundation stone of a new Public Library was laid, in the presence of a large crowd of parishioners, by Mr. J. Passmore Edwards, who has generously contributed £4,000 towards the cost of the institutions. The company present at the foundation-stone laying included Mr. Mark Dalton, Chairman of the Vestry; Mr. A. H. Valentine, Chairman of the Library Committee; the Rev. Manley Power, Rector of the Parish; the Rev. E. Schnadhorst; Mr. Wallace Bruce, County Councillor for the District; and Messrs. E. W. McCullum, A. G. Malins, and others. Votes of thanks to Mr. Passmore Edwards and the Chairman of the Vestry (who presided) were passed, with much congratulatory speaking on the boon the parish is about to enjoy.

THE appointment of a librarian for **Woolwich** has been postponed by the Local Board till the new Borough Council comes into office on November 9th. There are fifty-three applicants, and the salary offered is £120.

THE City Librarian of **Nottingham** reports to us a change which marks progress at the close of the nineteenth century. Mr. Briscoe writes:—"When the 'Free Library' in Thurland Street was opened in 1867, the committee fixed the age at when youths of both sexes could 'join the library' at fourteen years. At a largely attended meeting of the Library Committee on October 16th, the age limit was considered, and, in view of the higher educational standard of to-day as compared with the standard of thirty-three years ago, and the love of reading created, stimulated, and fed by the operations of our Children's Lending Library in Shakespeare Street, it was unanimously resolved to reduce the age limit to thirteen years. Teachers of the higher grades, parents, and the boys and girls of Nottingham, who are thus made eligible to use the libraries, other than those for juniors, will hail the change as a great boon, and one which there is little doubt will be largely taken advantage of, not only at the Central Library in South Sherwood Street, but at the Lending Libraries at Bulwell, New Basford, and Lenton, and at the various 'book delivery stations' in various parts of the city."—*Nottingham Daily Express*.

AT a meeting of the **Carlisle** City Council, held on Tuesday, October 9th, it was unanimously decided to adopt the recommendation of the Libraries' Committee to purchase property adjoining Tullie House, at a cost of £7,500, for the extension of the Public Library, Museum and Schools of Science and Art, of which Mr. Archibald Sparke is Librarian, Curator and Secretary. The Council will pay the whole of the purchase money.

THE immense popularity of this institution, which was built in 1893, at a cost of about £24,000 is obvious, when, after only seven years' life, it is necessary to acquire land for extension purposes. The newest site includes a hall capable of holding 1,000 people, besides other good rooms suitable for the holding of science classes.

PLANS have been passed for the erection of a new Public Library in **Stirling**, on a site granted by the Town Council. The building is to cost about £5,000. A sum of £3,000 was given as a donation by Mr. Carnegie.

MR. CHARLES J. WALLACE, M.A., J.P., of Deganwy, a former mayor of **Conway**, has presented over 2,000 volumes to the Free Library of the borough. The books, which consist chiefly of standard works, many of them at great value to the archæologist and the antiquary, are now at the donor's beautiful seat near Dublin, and the library committee are making arrangements for their safe transport from Ireland.

THE Free Library and Museum Committee of **Derby** has asked that Parliamentary powers be applied for to enable the Corporation to levy an additional rate, not to exceed 1d. in the pound, for library and museum purposes. The recommendation was acceded to.

THE proposed arrangement for giving the people of **Aberdeen** access to the books of the University Libraries through the Public Library, mentioned in a previous number, has now been completed by the concurrence of the University authorities.

MR. A. **Baker** has been appointed sub-librarian of the Public Library at Chester. Mr. Baker was, for a number of years, in the Winsford Public Library, where he served an apprenticeship of five years. In 1895 he was appointed a sub-librarian and assistant to the secretary of the Ashton-under-Lyne Public Library and Technical School. Mr. Baker is familiar with French, Latin, Shorthand and Typewriting, and some years ago won the highest prize offered by the Lancashire and Cheshire Institutes, viz. :—a Remington typewriter, value £22, in competition with the whole of Lancashire and Cheshire.

MR. ANDREW **Carnegie**, with his usual generosity, has given £10,000 for the purpose of providing a suitable library building for the town of Hawick.

MRS. **Elder**, widow of the great shipbuilder of that name, has given £25,000 for the provision of a Free Public Library for the Burgh of **Govan**, near Glasgow. It is understood that the Govan Police Commissioners will give £7,000 towards the building, which will be opened on Sundays. This will be the pioneer of Sunday opening in Scotland, if it is carried out.



THE PUBLIC LIBRARY JUBILEE.

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ON August 14th, 1850, the first Public Library Act received the Royal Assent, and shortly afterwards became operative throughout England. It is, therefore, fifty years since this valuable educational measure became law, and 1900 is consequently a jubilee year for librarianship. Norwich has the honour of being the first town to adopt the 1850 Act, and in February, 1851, Winchester followed the example. Strangely enough, East Anglia has not maintained its lead, the great centres of the movement being Lancashire, Yorkshire, London, Cheshire, and Staffordshire. The libraries of Warrington, Salford, and Brighton were established under the Museums' Act, or local Acts, so do not rank in this comparison, and Norfolk has therefore the honour of being the first English county to take advantage of the powers conferred by the Act. As most students of the history of the library movement are aware, the 1850 Act was of no great value, as it only allowed a half-penny rate, and left libraries to be formed by the generosity of donors. It was soon found that books were not given in very great abundance, so in 1855 the first Act of practical utility was passed which remained in force, with sundry minor amendments, till 1892, when the laws relating to libraries were consolidated and amended in the Act which now governs most of the Public Libraries of the country. Subsequent Acts, such as that of 1893, the Local Government Act, 1894, and London Government Act, 1899, have all modified or extended the Act of 1892, so that the time has nearly come when the whole body of library law requires reconsideration and re-modelling. In one respect, the sooner the present law is altered, the better it will be for librarians in every part of the country. The present limitation of the rate to one penny in the pound, is not only absurd in itself, but is opposed to the more recent policy of Parliament in trusting local authorities to regulate their expenditure for local purposes to suit the requirements of the district. Why any distinction should be made between Public Libraries and public schools, baths, tramways, electric light undertakings, &c., is one of those legislative puzzles which are the despair of logical minds. But it is easy enough to show that such a limitation is having a disastrous effect on established Public Libraries, if it is not possible to give reasons why Parliament should fix a limit to the local expenditure on libraries. Out of the 400 places enumerated in Mr. Greenwood's "British Library Year Book" which have adopted the Public Libraries' Acts, a very large number have not even commenced operations, although the Acts were adopted years ago. This is entirely owing to inadequate funds in nearly every case. The produce of the rate for all library purposes is ridiculously small in very many districts where the Acts have been put in force, as may be seen by reference to the following table :—

Income from rate under £100 per annum = 20 places.

"	"	£200	"	= 30	"
"	"	£300	"	= 26	"
"	"	£400	"	= 25	"
"	"	£500	"	= 26	"
"	"	£600	"	= 13	"

There are thus 140 places which have incomes of the most meagre description, on which it is absolutely impossible to manage the libraries to the best advantage, or give the ratepayers a valuable return for their money. If we take the most ordinary items of expenditure and tabulate them on the scale required for a library which is composed of reference and lending departments, news-rooms, &c. ; which supplies in moderation a selection of the best new books ; which takes at least eighty of the leading newspapers and magazines ; which maintains an adequate catalogue with some measure of regularity ; and finally, must have a staff of four to keep the library open in every department at least eleven hours a day, we get the following result, and we have adopted *minimum* rates in every instance :—

	£	s.	d.
Rent, or Repayment of Building Loan ...	150	0	0
Lighting, heating, water, cleaning ...	50	0	0
Insurance and Repairs, (say) ...	10	0	0
Books ...	150	0	0
Periodicals, etc. ...	40	0	0
Bookbinding ...	25	0	0
Printing and Stationery ...	10	0	0
Salaries (Librarian £100, Assistants £90) ...	190	0	0
Carriages, Postages, Miscellaneous ...	5	0	0
	<u>£630</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Now, a careful analysis of the figures given in Mr. Greenwood's invaluable "Year Book" proves that, with 140 places having less than £600 per annum, added to at least 60 places where the Acts are a dead letter, or are rendered practically inoperative through lack of sufficient funds, there are nearly 200 places (or about one-half of the total adoptions) where the Public Libraries are starved, or in such a hopeless condition that nothing short of a complete revolution will galvanize them into life and energy. This is a state of affairs which calls for a speedy remedy, and we can suggest no better means of celebrating the jubilee of the passing of Ewart's Act, than by obtaining from Parliament an alteration in the existing library law, to enable local authorities to raise by rate, for library purposes, as much money as will enable Public Libraries to be carried on with efficiency. The time has surely come for the repeal of a limitation which, however good and wise fifty years ago, is nothing but an obstruction and a crippling influence now. No more valuable method of commemorating the fifty years of library progress could be devised than one having for

its object the removal of cramping restrictions, which in many cases are imposed upon communities in no need of such questionable protection from their own desires. Every self-respecting municipality which has been asked to sanction an increase of the rate for the purpose of improving the Public Library has ungrudgingly given permission for parliamentary powers to be sought, and, in practically every instance, the increased rating powers have been granted. If single boroughs are granted this right, and it is only by means of expensive private legislation it can be done, then it would be the proper thing for Parliament to save all this trouble in the future by leaving out of the Library Acts the present unnecessary and paralysing limitations.



THE LIBRARY STAFF.

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THIS DEPARTMENT is conducted for the special, but not exclusive, benefit of the earnest and studious Library Assistant, who is determined to make his or her way in the profession of Librarianship. An effort will be made to cover, in a gradual and complete manner, the whole of the ground occupied by the technical side of the craft, and to enable this to be thoroughly done, brief practical notes of any kind are solicited from assistants or librarians in any sort of library. Ethical disquisitions on deportment, and disagreeable controversial notes are not wanted. Every assistant should make a point of sending at least one note annually, bearing on the daily routine work of a library. Nothing is too trivial or trite to be thoroughly discussed.

The Sub-Librarian. THE duties of a Sub-Librarian are so numerous and varied that it is impossible to deal with them adequately in a small paragraph such as this, but they are so important that the writer hopes that the few points brought out will be the means of helping those who already occupy that position, and assist those assistants who may have the position in view. Unlike the librarian, his immediate subordinate is bound to be in continual touch with the frequenters of his library. It is to him all callers are referred before being allowed to enter the sanctum of his chief, because, as is well known, the majority of enquiries can be answered without troubling the head. To act as a "buffer" to his chief requires great tact and a good temper. We have all met, at some time or other, the man who for twopence has picked up what he considers to be a book of great rarity, and so excited is he, that nothing less than an interview with the librarian will convince him that the book has been purchased at its true value. Then there is that large army of those who "want to know," the majority of which can be got rid of in two minutes by a tactful Sub.

It is the Sub who has the responsibility of seeing that the staff works harmoniously one with the other, settling any small dispute which may arise between two or more assistants. It also falls to his lot to give orders to those under him, re-adjust the time-sheet when that becomes necessary owing to illness, or during the holiday season ; and it is to him the junior members of the staff look for guidance in cataloguing, &c., as they cannot, or it may be that they feel timid about going direct to the chief.

We trust that in these few remarks our readers will recognise that on a Sub-Librarian much depends, and that unless he strives to be his chief's right hand man, he will find that everything is going wrong. He soon loses the confidence of his chief and the respect of the staff, his place being occupied by the senior, in every respect but in name. On the other hand, a good Sub is like oil to a machine, everything runs smoothly, to the delight of his chief and the comfort of the staff.

Aid to Readers. A LIBRARIAN or an assistant who aspires to fill his position creditably to himself must endeavour to assist those who frequent the library, by making himself accessible to his borrowers at all times. Questions are continually being asked by ignorant or bewildered borrowers as to the best books on the "Relation of Art to Literature," which may be the title of an essay they have promised to prepare for some unknown literary society. "Who was Prime Minister at the beginning of the Queen's Reign?" "When did Nero die?" and other questions which may appear trivial, or may be easily answered because you know the books to consult, are the real tests of a good librarian.

Librarians and assistants would do well if they would always endeavour to put themselves in the place of the borrower, who, no doubt feels lost among so many books which deal with nearly as many subjects. We continually hear of "Guides" or "Aids to Readers" being published, which no doubt do much to make the contents of the library better known, but let us always remember that the best guide a library can have is an intelligent and obliging Librarian

WE understand that the photographs of the **Library Association**, which were taken at Bath, in the old Roman bath, has been spoiled, owing to both exposures being taken on the same plate. Members will accordingly not be able to secure this very interesting souvenir.



OUT-OF-PRINT BOOKS.

By JAMES DUFF BROWN, *Borough Librarian, Finsbury.*

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MOST librarians in libraries of several years standing must have been confronted with the difficulty of obtaining copies of certain books which have been allowed to go out of print by their publishers. The number of such books is rapidly increasing, and among them are works which have taken a recognised place in English literature, as well as many others which have obtained a permanent value by being enshrined in the catalogues of hundreds of public and other libraries. In course of time many of these books are worn out, and it becomes necessary to replace them with new copies. It is then the discovery is made that fresh copies cannot be obtained, and the librarian is filled with dismay on receiving a long list of books from his bookseller marked with the ominous sign "O/P." Time after time this experience is repeated, till the librarian begins to wonder if any of his catalogue entries of certain authors will stand good. A temporary relief is sometimes obtained by advertising for second-hand copies, but even these are becoming more difficult to procure, and in the case of novelists like G. P. R. James, James Grant, and Harrison Ainsworth, only three volume editions are reported. It is, therefore, quite evident that the time has arrived for some combined effort to be made by the librarians of the country, if their shelves are to be kept in agreement with their catalogues.

I am not proposing that all out-of-print books which have figured in Public Library catalogues should be re-printed, but that every popular and good book which has been allowed to drop should be re-published in a suitable form. There are hundreds of good books which are mentioned in every history of English literature, which are quoted by speakers and newspapers, which appear in library catalogues, and which people are led to ask for because of such references, which are no longer to be had in any modern edition. There are other books which have obtained a certain measure of recognition and wide popularity, which, for some unknown reason, have been allowed to disappear from the lists of their publishers. Apart from the desirability of having copies of such books in Public Libraries in order to keep catalogues and stock books complete and correct, the further and greater question remains of keeping such books in print because of their place in English literature. In the case of some of the older books which form landmarks in literary history, it will be absolutely necessary to have well-edited modern re-prints, for the benefit of the students who are being formed in every school in the kingdom. In this case no question of copyright can intervene, and I have a strong feeling that the owners of copyrights which are no longer kept effective and alive by continuous publication should be deprived of the right of a monopoly which they decline to exercise. If a patent right becomes void by disuse, so also should the copyright in books. However, this is by the way, and Vol. III., No. 30, December, 1900.

scarcely affects the case, since it is more than likely, the owner of a copyright would soon re-issue an edition if he thought it worth doing. This is really the practical point of the whole question, and on it I have to make several suggestions.

The first question that a publisher will ask himself is this—"Will it pay me to re-issue an edition of so-and-so, and, if issued, who will buy it." The answer to this is easy. If any book was once popular enough to find its way into most of the public and other libraries of Britain and her Colonies, not to speak of the United States, it stands to reason that these institutions among them would be able to take up most of an edition of 1,000 copies at once, and with their replacements, as copies got worn out, gradually account for a considerable number more. If publishers of such re-issues would print the books in a good style on a superior quality of paper, and issue them generally in a worthy form, there would also be a considerable demand for them among booksellers and the general public, so that, altogether, the publisher would not be venturing so much on a wild-cat speculation, as upon an absolute certainty.

The principal question remaining is how to set about this desirable proposal in a practical manner. Undoubtedly, the first thing to be settled is the list of books among those out of print which it is necessary or desirable should be re-printed in good modern editions. To this task the librarians of the country could easily address themselves, by each compiling a list of the good out-of-print books coming within their own knowledge, or desirable books which, as specimens of literature, ought to be preserved for the benefit of students and general readers. These lists could be sent either to myself, or to the Editor of *The Library World* for publication, and then librarians would be in a position to judge of the extent to which this out-of-printism ran. Either through the medium of the Library Association, or of a committee formed from the contributing librarians, a meeting, or series of meetings, could be called to discuss the various phases of the question, and if a general understanding could be arrived at, that a certain number of the libraries of the country would purchase so many copies of the books as issued, there would be very little difficulty about getting a publisher or publishers to undertake the issue of Public Library editions, which would be creditable to all concerned. This question is a pressing one, and will become more and more urgent as time goes on, and I shall, therefore, be very glad to hear from any librarians who have suggestions to make, either of good out-of-print books, or works which might be re-issued in thoroughly revised modern editions.



VILLAGE LIBRARIES.

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AN article in the *Eastern Daily Press* of November 13th, entitled "Public Libraries for Norfolk Villages," written, we understand, by Mr. T. E. Maw, the Librarian of King's Lynn, recalls once more a question which seems as far from practical settlement now as it was 50 years ago. Various suggestions have been made, from the somewhat futile one of making each village a little library centre, to the more comprehensive schemes outlined by Messrs. E. A. Baker, J. D. Brown, W. R. Credland, and J. J. Ogle, of providing circulating or fixed libraries under central county government. Mr. Maw's proposal for Norfolk is of the nature of a compromise, and, as his remarks are novel and valuable, we take the liberty of transcribing them for the benefit of our readers.

"Since political economy become a science the land question has always been of primary importance, and the cause of the depopulation of rural districts and the necessity of reclaiming deserts and checking further emigration to the towns have exercised the minds of all who have the welfare of the nation at heart. Norfolk being purely an agricultural county, all classes should give the matter careful attention. At one time it was feared that the Education Act, by enabling the ploughman to read Homer between the stils, would unfit him for driving a team, but that bogey has long ago been laid. The sons of Tom and Jerry receive the same education as the sons of Giles and George, but on leaving school the town boy has all the advantages of the present day civilisation, whilst the villager must plod along in almost mediæval darkness. For him there are no picture galleries, museums, or libraries, only the country lane, or in wet weather the back of the cowshed. He has been taught to read at the national expense, and would read, but his appetite must be stilled with a weekly newspaper. The villager cannot waste money on books out of a weekly wage of 10s. or 12s. Of course he has all the wonders and beauties of nature around him, but he has not been taught to see them. The key to all such hidden treasure is in the book which he cannot get. His existence revolves round the chapel or the public-house, but some day he may find access to books, and then existence will grow into life.

Laodiceans, or worse, say there is no demand for village libraries. If it were true it would still be a worthless argument, because every step of progress has been met either by active opposition or stolid indifference by those who were to reap the benefit. That there is a demand is proved by the little village of Shouldham having adopted the Public Libraries' Acts three years ago. In another remote village nine working men and women sent a small collective subscription to the King's Lynn Public Library, with the request that they might be allowed to borrow books. Has there ever been any desire expressed to revoke the adoption of the Acts after a library has once been established and its benefits felt? Far from it, for it is well known by those interested in

the library movement that the most active opponents have invariably been the most regular visitors.

Norfolk has a population of about 500,000, and for 200,000 of these there are three Public Libraries, those in Norwich, Great Yarmouth, and King's Lynn, but what about the remaining 300,000? A few of the larger places have subscription libraries in a moribund condition, but for all practical purposes 300,000 people are without a Public Library. What seems at first sight the greatest obstacle to providing Public Libraries for these 300,000 people is in reality a decided advantage. Shouldham library rate would produce about £10 a year, so the obvious futility of doing anything on such a small income has prevented the Parish Council from putting the Acts into operation. What Shouldham has done, however, may be the means of making Norfolk rank in educational matters in England as highly as Siebenburger Sachsen does in Germany, for it is the proud boast of those living in that province that they are the best educated people in the world. If every parish in Norfolk would follow Shouldham's example, the only thing to do would be putting the Acts into operation, and that, as we intend showing, would be the easiest thing in the world.

For example, Shouldham is in Downham Union, and if every parish in that union levied a 1d. rate the joint annual income would be £343, and with this a very creditable collection of books could be purchased for circulation amongst the villages from Downham as a centre. The following statement of the income produced by a 1d. rate in each union will show what could be done:—

Aylsham... ..	£273	Flegg E. and W. ...	£160	Smallburgh ...	£300
Blofield	259	Forehoe	187	Swaffham	208
Depwade	344	Guiltcross	151	Thetford	217
Docking	327	Henstead	207	Walsingham ...	333
Downham	342	Loddon and Clavering	228	Wayland... ..	192
Erpingham	409	Lynn Freebridge ...	219	Wisbech	298
Faith's, St.	210	Mitford and Launditch	422		

If unions act separately there would be the same drawbacks from lack of sufficient funds and inevitable overlapping in the purchase of books as in the case of separate parishes.

Assuming that the Public Libraries' Acts had been adopted throughout Norfolk, the question of administration would first arise. At present, the most proper and capable body would be the County Council, as they are directly responsible to the ratepayers. With a committee of the Council and an able librarian, the real and imaginary difficulties would easily be met. The working of such a centralized system would be very small in proportion to the work done when compared with town libraries. There would be no costly central or branch library buildings, no enormous outlay for news-rooms, and great economy in staff arrangements. A central warehouse and offices would be required in Norwich, and a hired room in each village for the exchange of books once a week. The estimated working expenses would be a maximum of 50 per cent. of the income, including salaries of permanent staff (the schoolmaster or clerk in each village would act as librarian for a small honorarium), carriage of books, rent of rooms, cost of central

exchange store, printing, &c. The library's income from rate would be £5,290, and from the sale of remainder books and catalogues, fines, &c., £710, which would leave £3,000 for the purchase of books. This is no rash estimate, but based upon years of experience of many libraries and comparison of reports."

But for the proposition that Poor Law Unions should be areas for administering the Libraries' Acts, Mr. Maw's proposal is on much the same lines as those of every librarian who has written on the subject. It is quite evident that the Parish Council area is, in the vast majority of cases, quite inadequate, and there are other places besides Shouldham which have had to allow the adoption of the Libraries' Acts to remain a dead letter because of insufficiency of funds. As Mr. Maw has clearly shown in the case of Norfolk, the Poor Law Union is equally unable to act as library authority because, apart from inadequacy of funds, this area is not recognised by the Public Libraries' Acts. We are not aware how many parishes are comprised in the Unions of Mitford and Launditch, the area producing the largest income from a rd. rate of any of those mentioned in Mr. Maw's table. But it must be evident that an annual income of £422 would be of very little service in a large rural district when saddled with all the usual expenses of administration, in addition to the necessary expenditure connected with book distribution over a large area; not to speak of the problem of building up a collection of books numerous enough for the purpose, out of the trifling sum which would remain from the rate after other charges were met. The only practical method of dealing with this question seems to be that of making the County Council the Library Authority by means of fresh legislation, and saving all the great costs of administration by centralising the management. If, under Mr. Maw's classification, there are 20 Unions or possible combinations of Unions in Norfolk, each acting as a separate Library Authority, it is quite certain that the cost of managing all these places independently would amount to very much more than under the alternative plan of having one central authority. As for efficiency, it would be practically non-existent under the scheme of making each Union an administrative unit, while the economies possible under the larger scheme, would be rendered utterly impossible with such a distribution of energy.

The difficulties connected with the extension of the benefits of public libraries to rural districts prevent many librarians from devoting attention or interest to a very important problem, and it is, therefore, all the more courageous and helpful on the part of Mr. Maw, that he has tackled this subject so ably. There is no doubt that this question will become more prominent in the future, and it will be necessary for those engaged in library administration to examine the problems connected with it in a thoroughly earnest spirit, in order that some kind of practical scheme may be evolved. As a first step, let us suggest that the Public Libraries' Act be amended to include County Councils as bodies competent to adopt and administer the Acts, and that the power be taken from Parish Councils unless the rateable value of the district will produce at least £300 from the rd. rate.

“INFECTED” BOOKS.

By L. STANLEY JAST, *Chief Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries.*

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AMONG the two or three really practical papers carefully not read at the Bristol Meeting was that by Mr. MacAlister and Dr. Savage, on “The Risk of Contracting Infectious Diseases by the Use of Public Library Books.” The result of the authors’ investigations, that “it almost appears as if it were impossible to carry infection by means of books,” is highly satisfactory. I think that some years ago a similar investigation was undertaken in Germany, and the same conclusion arrived at. The merry microbe is not literary. It would be interesting to ascertain why books seem to be immune to the visitation of the microbe; is it printer’s ink he doesn’t like? or, is it that he *is* literary, and, as a consequence, avoids the greater part of the current press out-put? This raises an interesting point. What were the books experimented upon by Messrs. MacAlister and Savage? And may it not be that just as the microbe of infection has his personal preferences as regards the human, making himself quite at home in one, and apparently severely passing by another, so he may have his likes and dislikes in regard to certain books and certain authors?

But this, perhaps, savours of frivolity, and this note is serious. Its intention is to bring to the notice of librarians a novel provision concerning infected books—if the term may still be permitted in the light of what we know—which the Croydon Corporation has had inserted in a omnibus bill which has recently been sanctioned. By it the return of such books to the libraries becomes an offence against the law. The clause is as follows:—

“No person shall return to any Public Library any book which has been to his knowledge exposed to infection from any infectious disease, but shall at once give notice that it has been exposed to infection to the Inspector of Nuisances, who shall cause the same to be disinfected, and then returned to the Librarian. If any person offends against this enactment he shall be *liable to a penalty not exceeding 40s.*”

The provision is printed in red ink on the book plates, after the words, “The Croydon Corporation Act, 1900, provides that.” Along with other sanitary provisions it has also been well billed in the borough.

Although all the evidence we have goes to show that books don’t infect, people won’t believe it, and for this and to make assurance doubly sure in so important a matter, we most of us have some arrangement as to disinfection. The drastic measure of destroying all books coming from infected houses has hitherto been in vogue at Croydon. The above arrangement, relieving the Librarian of all responsibility, and throwing it on the sanitary department, *and the reader*, seems to be the fairest, and the most likely to be effective of anything yet done.

GRIEVANCES OF FREE LIBRARY READERS.

IV. *By A SUB-LIBRARIAN.*

O O C

THOUGH I agree with a good deal of what Mr. Horace J. O'Brien writes on this subject, I must respectfully dissent from the suggestion conveyed by his articles, that all librarians are tarred with the same brush. He may not believe it, but I know for a fact that there are many librarians and assistants who are anxious to improve their methods of working, and desirous of making their libraries in every possible way acceptable and useful to the public. Mr. O'Brien in his slashing, vigorous way, has hit off one or two weak points which are so closely connected with the foundation upon which Public Library management is built, that it is vain to discuss them apart from the general principles which govern finance, classification, cataloguing and other equally important branches of the subject. My object in writing is to consider several minor grievances from which Public Library readers suffer, and at which they legitimately complain, and as they have all come under my own observation, I venture to mention them as one who sympathises with readers, though unable to afford them relief while in a subordinate position. My own feeling in the matter is that readers are made to suffer overmuch from a superabundance of rules and regulations. There are too many "Don'ts" and "Mustn'ts" in free libraries to please enlightened citizens who pay heavy rates for the purpose of keeping these institutions open. I shall briefly specify a few which every assistant will recognize as the cause of constant friction between themselves and readers.

1. *The Rule that books will not be renewed unless they are actually brought back to be stamped or re-dated.*

This inflexible rule is a source of endless annoyance to assistants and borrowers alike. There seems to be no obvious reason why it should ever have been made, as there is no question that a renewal by postcard or letter can be attended to easier and at more leisure, than one required by a borrower who fetches his book and demands instant attention.

I have never heard an argument in favour of the rule which convinced me that it was necessary. To say that it prevents lazy folks from evading due payment of fines is to beg the question, and there is hardly any more force in the contention that borrowers seldom give all the necessary particulars to make renewals by post easy to deal with. Borrowers who go to the country for a month are debarred by this absurd rule from taking books away with them, or if they do, are mulct in fines which do not tend to improve the relationship betwixt reader and assistant. And this leads me by a natural transition to

2. *Excessive Fines*, which are the rule in some libraries which are thought to be independent of such a source of income. The general idea underlying this imposition of fines is more or less disciplinary in

nature, most apologists for the practice maintaining that careless people would never return their books, and other readers would accordingly suffer by their negligence. This may be true of a small percentage of borrowers, but it hardly applies to people who want to read, and who would rarely have books lying idly about at home. Besides, there is a vast difference in the ethics of the case, when it is found that one library only charges a penny for every week overdue, while others find it necessary to charge twopence or a penny per *day*. A small fine may have the effect aimed at, of inducing borrowers to return their books with a fair measure of punctuality, but a large fine can only be regarded as an illegitimate method of adding to the income of a library. It has often occurred to me that the whole question of fines is one requiring more consideration, if not instant revision. No part of the policy of a library is responsible for so much trouble and worry as the fine system, and I have very grave doubts if there is any benefit accruing either to the library or its borrowers. Indeed, I am not at all sure if more harm is not done to a library by means of this fine system than it, and the whole of the elaborate machinery required to make it effective, is worth. What with overdues, checking methods, quarrels, book-keeping, delays in service, and general bad feeling, it is my firm conviction that the game is not worth the candle. A library suffers more in prestige because of these petty inflictions than it gains in hard cash. It may be asked what method can be devised to take the place of fines, in order to secure prompt return of books, and I answer that the suspension of tickets in troublesome cases, and cancellation in the few hopeless cases, will do everything necessary for discipline and good order. To fine a reader for retaining a book beyond a period of 7, 10, or 14 days has always appeared to me like laying a severe tax upon the acquisition of knowledge, and when to this it is demanded that a borrower shall be troubled with the obligation of carrying his book back to a library in order to have it renewed and so save the imposition, then it is adding insult to injury.

3. There is another petty and mean restriction in certain Public Libraries, which I have seen mentioned in the *Library World*. I allude to the practice of making the age limitation an excuse for turning out little children from reading rooms and other parts of a library, when accompanied with grown-up persons. I can think of no more illiberal or absurd misconception of a rule which was only designed in the first instance to protect readers from the noisy inroads of irresponsible juveniles. Nor can I imagine a rule more calculated to excite the indignation of citizens, or render a library unpopular and its officials disliked. I must confess that, at one time, I regarded the remarks on this subject which appeared in the *Library World* as exaggerations, till I was recently informed by a reputable citizen that a little girl, aged seven, had been ordered out of a reading room by a library official, though quietly seated by the side of her father. This is a very absurd interpretation of a rule which was never meant to apply in such cases as this, and librarians who enforce it must not be surprised if both themselves and their libraries are unpopular.

4. This subject naturally leads to that of *Age Limitations* in general. It is surprising, when so much is being said and written about the necessity of attracting boys and girls to the Public Library, as a kind of antidote to Hooliganism, and a preparation for the serious business of life, that so many libraries should still maintain such high age limits as 16, 14, 13 and 12 for their youngest readers. I was aghast when I read some days ago, an unctuous paragraph to the effect that a certain Midland library had actually, with unheard of generosity, reduced its age limit from 14 to 13 years. Heavens! what a concession to the "higher educational standard of to-day"! In some libraries with which I am acquainted it is not an uncommon sight to see boys and girls of 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 using books and magazines intelligently and with considerable benefit to themselves. In these progressive days a boy is practically a man at 13 or 14 years of age, and it seems absurd to keep him outside the library when he is almost formed, as far as character and education are concerned. A library should endeavour to attract children while they are at school, in order that they may know its possibilities, and be induced to use it after they have done with their school days. A hard and fast age limitation is a mistake in any circumstances, but it becomes an absolute local calamity when applied to all children under 14 or 15 years of age. All children are not of the equal intelligence which such rules and limitations seem to assume, there being many boys and girls of eight or nine years of age who are the superiors in mental development of their fellows six or seven years older. The sole test of fitness to use any department of a Public Library should be the desire and capacity to use it with intelligence, and not some hard and fast arbitrary limit which may be placed high for no other purpose than to save the staff trouble under the pretence of safeguarding the library. Happily there are signs that this particular restriction upon a large and important section of the public is gradually being relaxed, and it is fortunate that all libraries do not require 30 years experience before granting, as a valuable concession, a privilege which ought by right to belong to every youngster able to write and read.

5. A petty and inconvenient custom, which has become crystallized in some libraries, leading to endless disputes, fruitless errands and considerable annoyance all round, is that which ordains that the lending library shall be closed on a certain day or half day every week. I have heard more bad language from disappointed borrowers in connection with this craze than on any other matter. On one occasion I counted twelve persons who were turned away in the course of a single hour from a well-known library in South London. If this goes on during the whole of the closed time, it is evident that a large number of persons must be put to great trouble for nothing. I am not going to discuss the various pros and cons of the question, because to my mind everything is overshadowed by these considerations. If one busy library can remain open, all similar libraries can do likewise; and if a few shillings weekly in name of wages can accomplish this result without unnecessarily overworking the staff, it is the first duty of a committee to consider the convenience of readers and let every other consideration slip. It

has always struck me as an extraordinary circumstance that committees could be found willing to sacrifice the convenience and interests of a large body of ratepayers to those of one or two assistants, and all for the sake of saving a few shillings weekly.

With these remarks I will close this contribution to an important discussion. If every librarian or assistant could be induced to make a frank exposition of his views on these and similar points, much would be done to improve the relationship between public and librarians, and even Mr. O'Brien might be satisfied.



A NEW BOOK NUMBER.

By L. STANLEY JAST, *Chief Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries.*

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II.

I PROCEED to show how the system of book numbers explained in last month's *Library World* may be employed so as to maintain strict alphabetic order. No table is required, except a very short one which, however, may easily be committed to memory. Before giving the table I must say that in the examples of book numbers in the preceding article the printer has put full stops instead of decimal points between the author and work marks. The stop is not so clear nor does it look so well as the point.

TABLE.

2	a—f	6	n—s
4	g—m	8	t—z

It will be better in this case to use three letters, except for quartos and folios. In a large reference library quartos might take the three letters.

Now, suppose I have the following series of authors to number, I take them from a fiction list to illustrate this application of the system in the worst class:—

Harder.
Hardman.
Hardy, I. D.
Hardy, T.
Haring.
Harland.
Harley.
Harris.
Harrison.
Harsha.
Hart.

All these commence with the same three letters, HAR. Taking the first name Harder, I find that the letter following the first three is d, this comes in the group a—f in the above table, and I therefore represent Harder by HAR2. Passing over the other names which fall in the same group I come to Haring, the fourth letter of which is i, and by the table I represent this name by HAR4. Again, jumping the names which fall in the same group, I mark Harris HAR6 and Hart HAR8. The list now stands thus:—

Harder.	HAR2.
Hardman.	
Hardy, I.D.	
Hardy, T.	
Haring	HAR4
Harland	
Harley	
Harris	HAR6
Harrison	
Harsha	
Hart	HAR8

Four authors only have received numbers ; the rest must be so marked that they come between the numbers allotted, in correct order. The use of the table is as a rough guide to ensure sufficient gaps being left between the numbers, when there are only one or two books to be marked. Having by its aid got the even numbers spaced properly, I can proceed to allot the remaining numbers on the general principle of leaving space on either side for new names. Between Harder, HAR2, and Haring, HAR4, are three names ; I use up the only single digit at my disposal therefore by marking the middle name, Hardy, I. D., HAR3. Then Hardman becomes HAR25 and Hardy. T., HAR35. The figures of course arrange as decimals. Thus we have:—

Harder	HAR2
Hardman	HAR25
Hardy, I. D.	HAR3
Hardy, T.	HAR35
Haring	HAR4
Harland	HAR45
Harley	HAR5
Harris	HAR6
Harrison	HAR65
Harsha	HAR7
Hart	HAR8

Here are eleven authors commencing with the same three letters provided for, with a good deal of room for new comers without going beyond two digits. Suppose in this section we have to find room for

the following, Harding, Hardy, A. S., Haring, and Harrington. The insertions work out like this :—

Harder	HAR ₂		
	←	Harding	HAR ₂₃
Hardman	HAR ₂₅		
	←	Hardy, A. S.	HAR ₂₇
Hardy, I. D.	HAR ₃		
Harley	HAR ₅		
	←	{ Haring	HAR ₅₃
Harris	HAR ₆	{ Harrington	HAR ₅₆

Work marks will consist of the initial of title and a figure. In marking works of living authors use even numbers only if possible, but when the works one has beginning with the same initial are numerous it will be better to use up all the single digits (except the unit) at once, as in the following titles in M from the list of Mrs. Oliphant's works:—

Madam	.M ₂	Mary	.M ₅
Madonna Mary	.M ₂₅	Merkland	.M ₆
Magdalen Hepburn	.M ₃	Minister's Wife	.M ₇
Margaret Maitland	.M ₄	Miss Marjoribanks	.M ₈
Marriage of Elinor	.M ₄₅	Mrs. Arthur	.M ₉

This is on the supposition that Mrs. Oliphant was still living. But as it is not so, of course no numbering power would be wasted as in the above example to provide for contingencies which cannot happen, and the first title "Madam" would be marked simply .M, the others would then be .M₁, .M₂, &c., and the above novels would be marked without a second figure. Similarly with the other authors who have joined the great majority; leaving numbers for the works the library does not possess, unless their future acquisition be unlikely.

There are thus two applications of the system of book numbers described. By one an approximate alphabetic order is ensured, by the other the alphabetic order is perfect. There is no reason why both should not be employed in the same library, the latter in divisions like Fiction, Biography, and Literature, the former in the more minutely divided classes.

A note as to the work numbers. It is sometimes better to arrange works by the initial of some more important word in the title than the first word, as in the cases where several works begin with the same word or phrase, e.g.:

PERROT & CHIEPIEZ. History of Art in			
Chaldea and Assyria	...	...	q709 PER.C
History of Art in Persia	...	...	q709 PER.P
History of Art in Phrygia, &c.	...	...	q709 PER.PI
History of Art in Primitive Greece	...	...	q709 PER.G

The following **appointments** have been recently made :—Assistant librarians in Ryland's Library, Manchester. Mr. Vines, National Library of Ireland, Dublin, and Mr. Rye, Assistant Librarian in Earl of Crawford's Library, Haigh Hall. Librarian of the Liverpool Lyceum, Mr. Hutt, of the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGHES.

THE amount of interest manifested in the arrangements and settlements which will have to be made in connection with the libraries controlled by the new London Borough Councils, justifies this effort to keep librarians informed of what is taking place in the different new areas of London. There are various important questions connected with the subject which must interest every librarian. In the first place, the number of Library Authorities will be reduced, but this reduction will depend upon how each Borough Council acts. If only one Committee is appointed for a Borough in which there are several different libraries, representing separate adoptions of the Libraries Acts, how will this affect the total number of adoptions? We are not aware of any Library Authority which has absorbed other similar authorities in the wholesale manner effected by the London Government Act of 1899. Omitting Penge, which is counterbalanced by the addition of South Hornsey, there were thirty-eight adoptions of the Public Libraries Acts in the County of London, up to November 9th, 1900, and consequently thirty-eight Library Authorities, or rather thirty-seven, as St. Martin and St. Paul, Covent Garden, are jointly administered. Now, there are twenty Library Authorities, excluding Paddington not yet properly settled, and the question is, will all the separate adoptions of the Acts count in the future, unless each Borough Council delegates its powers to the old Library Authority areas within its boundary? It does not seem, judging by the imperfect information to hand, that any such multiple delegation of powers is in contemplation. Another important point is the appointment of library officers in the different Boroughs. In eleven of them the solution is easy, because each has only one chief librarian, and had only one old Library Authority, while in Woolwich nothing has yet been done. In nine Boroughs, however, possessing among them twenty-two chief librarians, and as many old Authorities, the difficulties of settlement will be infinitely greater. It may be some time before any definite arrangements can be made, so that we propose to keep this matter open till every Borough has made its choice of officers. The important question of a limited delegation of powers will have to be faced in practically every Borough. It will be inconvenient, and in every respect undesirable, to appoint Library Committees as ordinary committees of Council, requiring approval for every act before anything can be done. It is manifest that, for a long time to come, the Borough Councils will require every hour they can get for the settlement of the thousand and one details of ordinary administration awaiting settlement, and that the additional work of efficiently managing one or more libraries will come as an intolerable burden. The grant of a delegation of powers to Library Committees within the limitations imposed by the Libraries and London Government Acts is, therefore, extremely desirable,

and we trust those who are responsible will see to it that an effort is made to obtain the best possible terms in every case. There are other interesting matters arising out of this great change, but we will reserve them for another time, giving, meantime, the information which we have been able to collect at very short notice.

CHELSEA.

The Council have appointed a temporary Libraries Committee, consisting of Councillors and three non-councillors, to carry on the work of the Library for six months. Mr. J. H. Quinn is the officer transferred from the old Library Authority. The scheme for the Kensal Town Branch, transferred to Paddington, is not yet settled.

FINSBURY.

The Borough Council have appointed a Public Libraries Committee of twelve members, including two non-councillors, to administer the Acts in Clerkenwell, St. Sepulchre and Glasshouse Yard, or in such other parts of the Borough as the Public Libraries Acts may afterwards be extended to. Save for certain financial arrangements which must remain in the hands of the Council, and questions of rates, loans and branches, the Council have delegated all their powers to the Public Libraries' Committee, subject to reports being presented monthly, which will not be recommendations for approval save as regards matters reserved by the Council. Mr. James D. Brown has been appointed Borough Librarian and Clerk to the Committee, and all the staff have likewise been permanently appointed.

HAMMERSMITH.

The Public Libraries of Hammersmith will be managed by a Committee of twelve members, nine of whom have been elected from the Borough Council. The remaining three will be co-opted from residents who are not on the Council. The members already appointed have been requested to forward the names of six candidates to the Council, from whom three will be selected.

At the first meeting of the Library Committee, held on the 27th November, Sir W. B. Richmond, R.A., K.C.B., was elected Chairman for the ensuing twelve months.

The services of the whole of the library staff has been retained by the new Borough Council.

HAMPSTEAD.

The Libraries Committee will consist of ten members of Council, with the addition of not more than four other members selected from outside the Council. There is nothing else settled here, beyond the usual temporary provisions for carrying on the work. Mr. Doubleday is the Librarian transferred under the Act.

HOLBORN.

This Borough has appointed a Library Committee of twelve, of whom two may be non-members of the Council. Nothing else seems to have been decided. Mr. H. Hawkes, Holborn Public Library, and Mr. W. A. Taylor, St. Giles' Public Library, are the transferred officers

SOUTHWARK.

The Borough Council have appointed a Public Libraries Committee of twenty-four, of whom twelve are non-councillors. The transferred librarians are Messrs. Aldred, St. George-the-Martyr ; E. Beels, Christchurch ; R. W. Mould, Newington ; and H. D. Roberts, St. Saviour.

STOKE NEWINGTON.

Temporary arrangements have been made here for carrying on the Libraries under the old Commissioners and Committees. The transferred officers are Mr. E. Gunthorpe, South Hornsey, and Mr. G. Preece, Stoke Newington.

WANDSWORTH.

The Library Committees of the Parishes or Districts of Clapham, Putney, Streatham and Wandsworth have been temporarily appointed to carry on the respective libraries till the end of 1900. Messrs. Welch, Tweney, Everatt and Davis are the transferred officers of Clapham, Putney, Streatham and Wandsworth respectively. It is believed that, in this Borough, one chief officer will be appointed for each department, including Libraries.

WOOLWICH.

This Borough has appointed a Public Libraries Committee, of whom five members are non-councillors.



SUBJECT-INDEXES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES.

By JAS. DUFF BROWN, *Borough Librarian, Finsbury.*

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THE correspondence which has been going on in the *Times* since October 15th, on "The Proposed Subject-Index to the Library of the British Museum," proves conclusively the amazing fact that there are scholars and readers in these progressive days who yearn for the darkness and exclusiveness in which men of the type of the late Augustus De Morgan would have Public Libraries managed. According to these gentlemen the British Museum, and all similar Public Libraries, should be browsing places for a few selfish students, or those professional searchers who make a profit out of the difficulties which have been allowed to grow up in certain libraries, because of bad and inefficient catalogues. For these men an author-catalogue and the few unsystematic bibliographies, which have been published by various writers working on independent lines and overlapping in every direction, are claimed to be all-sufficient. Inferentially, the same guides must be made to serve the ordinary student, the busy man of affairs, and particularly the general reader. It is impossible to reprint the whole of this long correspondence, which possesses exceptional interest for

librarians, but no one connected with library administration should fail to turn up the files of the *Times* and study the views of the various writers, most of whom are not practical librarians. The most conspicuous feature of the correspondence seems to be that the "Scholar" who inaugurated the controversy, has only a very vague idea of what a subject-index is, while his ideas on the subject of bibliographies are grotesque in the extreme. Indeed, none of the correspondents seem to be aware that many splendid subject-indexes already exist as patterns for the British Museum authorities, not only in such celebrated catalogues as those of the Surgeon-General at Washington, and the Peabody Institute at Baltimore, but on a more humble scale in every Public Library catalogue in Britain and the United States. The "Scholar" already mentioned makes the astounding statement that over 10,000 bibliographies exist, on as *many special subjects*, and that by means of them "any student accustomed to bibliographical research can easily hunt up all the books, articles, &c., ever published on a given subject." He does not tell us how many years it would occupy to gather this wonderful stock of information, but practical librarians will recognize in the statement one of those absurd general claims which are so often used in controversies of this kind. It is precisely because such complete bibliographies do not exist, save in "A Scholar's" imagination, that the need for good subject-indexes to literature is so urgent. Speaking as one who has had much occasion to use the British Museum for special purposes, I should say that the bibliographies are about the least satisfactory aids upon which anyone could rely. It is true that in one or two departments of knowledge the bibliographical guides are admirable, and, so far as they go, fairly complete, but generally speaking no reliance need be placed upon the existing bibliographies as effective substitutes for up-to-date and constantly revised subject-indexes of the contents of a library. The limitations of bibliographies are too many, and I shall mention a few, with special regard to their general uselessness in such a large and random collection as the British Museum. Imagine a reader, who is not a scholar or a "searcher," but a citizen of ordinary intelligence, going to the British Museum, and depending upon its stock of bibliographies to aid him in his particular quest. The first fact which would strike him would be the somewhat inconvenient and disconcerting one that the bibliographies were not arranged together according to some easily understood plan, but scattered all over the reading room, and, saving for the best-known works, also dispersed throughout the library. He would also discover that the important series of bibliographies, contained in books which are not bibliographies, were not listed or catalogued anywhere, and that aids of a similar character, such as certain library catalogues, were only to be had on special application. After making this painful discovery, our reader would next find that it was necessary to ascertain if the library contained a bibliography of any kind which would suit his purpose, and, if found, he would then have to undertake the further task of ascertaining if the library possessed any of the books entered in the bibliography. In the meantime, be it noted, he would have no guide whatever as to the *suitability* of any of

the books on his subject, but would have to spend a considerable amount of time waiting till his books were fetched, and afterwards in examining them. To a gentleman of leisure, this might be a pleasure, and an easy method of killing time, but to the ordinary business man it would be simply impossible.

The further fact may be noted that bibliographies are not all compiled on similar lines, or according to any recognised plan, and when unindexed, as many of them are, it requires an enormous expenditure of time to discover what they contain. One bibliographer prefers the chronological method of arrangement; another likes to arrange alphabetically by authors; a third goes in for classification, and many of them forget the necessary indexes. To crown all, no sooner is the bibliography published than it is out of date, and dozens of imperfections are discovered! Bibliographies do not represent what libraries contain, whereas subject-indexes do, and this is a point of great importance. As to the claim that bibliographies exist on every conceivable subject, it may be dismissed as a sheer absurdity. Students and librarians alike are all anxiously awaiting the happy day when adequate bibliographies on every subject will exist, and will hail it as a time to be celebrated with rejoicing for the amount of labour to be saved them. Not so very long ago I was in search of a list or bibliography which should give, in a collected form, all the English, Scotch Irish and Welsh collections of sacred and secular music which had been published. I tried collections of Psalmody and Hymns with music first, and found, as I suspected, there was nothing to help me. With secular music collections the result was precisely the same. I waded through numberless volumes of the British Museum Music Catalogue, and spent many unprofitable, unhappy and unhealthy hours in the hopeless work of tracking my special subject through an endless author-catalogue. A brief subject-list of these and similar works could be compiled by the Museum staff in a comparatively short time, and its value would be incalculable to enquirers to whom non-existing bibliographies are naturally useless. I have heard a great deal about the facility with which certain experts can use author-catalogues and bibliographies, but I have never yet experienced the good fortune of meeting one of these gentlemen who could assist me in particular quests when my urgency was great. The British Museum, and every large library, should have complete subject-indexes or catalogues to the books upon their shelves, and until these are provided, their utility to the general public will be very greatly limited. A simple subject-catalogue, either in one alphabetical sequence, or classified with a relative index, which even a school boy could use and understand, is immeasurably superior to any series of bibliographies, however complete or extensive, which could be collected. Public Libraries require more of such aids, and considerably less of the spirit which would subordinate the public convenience and right, to the fads of bibliographical cranks. Subject-indexes, if properly and effectively done, would do much to place the unlettered citizen in quest of information on a level with the encyclopædic scholar or searcher who is crammed

with erudition, and would be a most effective engine for spreading knowledge where it is most required. If the few scholars and experts who disdain aids to research like subject-indexes do not require them, then, by all means, let librarians compile them for the benefit of the great majority of the people who do.



LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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Communications for this column, which is not Editorial, should be signed, as an evidence of good faith, and marked "For Libraries and Librarians." Such signatures will not be published unless specially desired.

THE principal event of the past few weeks has been the appearance of Mr. **Greenwood's British Library Year Book**, 1900-1901, in an enlarged and greatly improved form. This book simply bristles with facts, and contains information on nearly everything of any importance connected with the work and organization of Public Libraries. In future editions we suggest that fuller information be collected as to the constitution of committees, delegation of power to committees, and similar matters. Among such a huge array of dates and facts it is inevitable that a few errors should creep in, but those we have noticed have been of the most obvious and trifling description, generally printer's errors or variations manifestly caused by alterations made while the book was passing through the press. As this work is a labour of love on Mr. Greenwood's part, carried out at considerable pecuniary loss, it is to be hoped librarians, and everyone interested in the library movement, will give it their support. We see it announced in the literary journals that Mr. Greenwood proposes to issue a new and greatly enlarged edition of his work on *Public Libraries*. This, we understand, will take the form of a handsome volume, profusely illustrated, and will be a suitable record of the Public Library movement in its year of jubilee.

ESTIMATES amounting in all to £6,882 have been accepted for the **Dumfries** Free Library building. The furnishing will cost about £1,000 extra.

MR. T. A. **Onions**, B.A., the Sub-Librarian of the Newcastle-on-Tyne Public Library, has been appointed Librarian to the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate Place, London, in succession to Mr. Edward Taylor, who died in October, at the early age of 35.

A MOTION has been carried by the **Worcester** City Council to the effect that in future the Library Committee should be required to obtain the sanction of the Council for any expenditure exceeding £10. The Library Committee has protested against the change, and the Chairman of the Committee has resigned in consequence of the Council persisting in this action.

COUNCILLOR L. W. HODSON, a member of the **Wolverhampton** Free Library Committee, has lent to the Reference Library the following collection for exhibition. The works are arranged in fourteen cases; as follows :—

- 1—*Canterbury Tales* (Norton M.S.) about 1420.
- 2— " " (Ashburnham MS.) about 1450.
- 3— " " (Autotype of Lansdowne MS.) 1400-1425.
- " " (Brode MS.) 1470.
- 4— " " (Autotype of Harleian MS.) 1400-1425.
- Psalter on Vellum*, about 1450, to show style of illumination of Harleian MS.
- 5—Two fragments of the first printed edition of the *Canterbury Tales*, printed by William Caxton.
- 6—*Chaucer's Works* printed in black letter by Kyngston, in 1561.
- 7—Wood engravings (coloured) of the *Canterbury Pilgrims*, copied from Ellesmere MS., made before 1450.
- 8—Facsimile of an engraving of the *Canterbury Pilgrims*, by William Blake, 1810.
- 9—Tyrwitt's edition of *Chaucer's Canterbury Tales*, 1822.
- 10—*Chaucer Society* edition of *Chaucer's Works*, edited by Furnival, 1885.
- 11—Six-text print of *Canterbury Tales*, 1868-1877.
- 12—Parallel text edition of *Chaucer's Minor Poems*, 1878-1880.
- 13—Skeat's edition of *Chaucer*, 1894.
- 14—*Works of Chaucer*, edited by Ellis, illustrations by Burne-Jones, and printed by William Morris, 1896.

This is an example which wealthy bibliophiles would do well to imitate.

THE extension of the central newsroom of **Bournemouth** Public Library has wonderfully improved the convenience of the public at the Central Library, and was undertaken in order that better provision should be made for the great number of frequenters of the newsroom. The committee negotiated with the G. N. Railway authorities for the first floor of their premises adjoining the library, and the committee instructed the librarian, Mr. Charles Riddle, to prepare a plan and make out an estimate for the work. The work has now been completed, and the new rooms were opened on November 1st. The extended newsroom is 41-ft. 6-in. by 19-ft., has stands for eighteen newspapers, and seating accommodation for about forty-five persons. The reference

library has a large bookcase containing over 1,000 valuable books, counter, and seating accommodation for fifteen persons. The daily issues from the reference library since November 1st have increased four-fold, and no doubt, as the winter advances, good use will be made of the books.

THE ceremony of opening the Nelson Hall and North Branch Public Library, in Hamilton Place, Stockbridge, **Edinburgh**, was performed on October 19th, by Lord Provost Sir Mitchell Thomson. In addition to the Nelson Hall, which is to be used as a recreation hall and news-room, there is in the building a library hall, capable of containing 12,000 volumes, a reading room, and the other adjuncts of such an institution. The architect was Mr. H. Ramsay Taylor.

By the death of Mr. William **Southall**, which took place suddenly on November 5th, at his residence, Brook Street, the Dudley Corporation have lost a valuable official, and the general public a courteous and obliging servant. He was appointed librarian to the Dudley Free Library twelve years ago, in succession to Mr. Mackmain. The vacancy has been filled by the appointment of Miss E. J. Southall, at a salary of £100 per annum.

THE Public Libraries Acts were adopted by the **Hampton** District Council in November, on the motion of Mr. Denning. It is proposed to levy a half-penny rate in the first instance.

A RECOMMENDATION by the **Lockerbie** Public Library Committee that the library building be erected on the site adjoining the Town Hall, taking in the Market Hall, provided satisfactory arrangements can be made for securing that hall from the Town Hall Committee, was approved of by the Commissioners.

AT a meeting of the **Farsley** District Council, Yorkshire, held on November 1st, it was decided that a meeting of the Public Library Committee be held forthwith, with a view to getting the library into working order. It was stated that the Council had a number of books and some of the money already in hand.

THE **Merthyr** District Council opened a reading room at the Vestry Hall of the new Town Hall last month. This is the first step towards providing the district with a series of libraries and reading rooms under the Public Libraries Acts.

WAYS and means of putting the Public Libraries Act at force at **Annan** are now being discussed. A rate of 1d. in the £ produces £60 or £70, and the Town Council are in a position to supplement this to the extent of £30 a year. This supplement would be gradually a decreasing one as the produce of the rate grew, which there is every likelihood of it doing. The members of the Mechanics' Institute would probably agree to hand over their building and the library to the Free Library Committee, and thus the foundation of a library would be laid, and the building, if sold, would realise as much as would provide a site.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE has intimated that he will give £1000 to **Dunblane** Reading Room and Library Association for the purpose of providing new buildings, provided the Committee of the Association provide a like sum of £1000, and that the Burgh adopts the Free Libraries Act.

AFTER being closed for more than a year, Mount Street branch of **Plymouth** Public Library has been re-opened in the Board School. The branch, with others, was closed because the attendance fell off in the summer, but when originally opened it was highly successful in the winter months, and it has now been re-opened in compliance with a requisition from residents of the districts. One of the class-rooms has been converted into a reading room, well supplied with papers and magazines, while in the adjoining class-room a small lending library has been established.

A BRANCH newsroom has been opened in the Swimming Baths Café at **Harrogate**, as part of the Public Library scheme of the Borough.

Some time ago the question was brought before the Committee of the **Peterborough** Public Library of establishing delivery stations or branch reading rooms in the city, and a sub-committee was appointed to take the matter into consideration. At the request of the general committee the Librarian (Mr. W. J. Willcock) presented to the sub-committee information in the form of a report upon delivery stations in other towns, an estimate of the annual cost of two delivery stations, and a table showing the yearly expenditure of the Library Committee from 1894 to 1900. These reports having been carefully considered, on Monday the sub-committee reported to the Committee as follows :

First : That no town of the size of Peterborough yet possesses delivery stations, branch reading rooms, or branch libraries. The town possessing these advantages which approaches nearest to it in point of population is Blackpool (pop. 40,000), where, however, the Library Rate, 1d. in the £, produces £1,450 per annum, nearly three times the amount it produces in Peterborough ; showing that the income of the Peterborough Public Library is far below that of any other town which has established branch libraries, branch reading rooms, or delivery stations.

Second : That during five out of the last seven years (1894-1900) the yearly expenditure of the Peterborough Public Library has exceeded the income. In two years only (1898 and 1899) has the expenditure been below the income.

Third : The Sub-committee find upon careful enquiry, that the work done by the Peterborough Public Library compares most favourably with that done in libraries with much larger incomes, and that there is no item of the present expenditure which could be curtailed to find the money which it is estimated would be required to open even one delivery station two nights a week.

Whilst the Sub-committee think that it is desirable at the first possible opportunity to establish branch reading rooms and delivery stations, they have to report that in their opinion no action with this view could at the present time be taken without seriously limiting the work now being done at, and greatly impairing the usefulness of the Public Library, and they believe that it will be to the interest of the bulk of the citizens that the question be again adjourned.

The report was adopted.



LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE First Monthly Meeting of the Session was held at Hanover Square, on Monday, the 12th November. A fair number of members assembled to hear a paper by Mr. E. Wyndham Hulme, on "Principles of Dictionary Subject-Cataloguing in Scientific and Technical Libraries,"* followed by "A Note on the Systematic Exhibition of New Books in the Salford Libraries," by Mr. Ben. H. Mullen, which, in the absence of the respective authors, were read by the secretary. On Mr. Hulme's paper, which was discussed by Messrs. Jast, Quinn, and others, the general opinion seemed to be that the combination of pure dictionary and classified catalogues was a mistake; that while either form used alone had special advantages, these were nullified in a mixture which mainly exhibited the bad features of each form. With regard to Mr. Mullen's suggestion, Mr. Jast considered the plan of allowing the reader to handle the new books, a distinct advance on the exhibition of them in a glazed case, when readers had to choose by title, and were little better off than they were with a mere list. Mr. Quinn objected to keeping new books from circulation, though but for a brief period. Mr. Pacy was afraid that Mr. Mullen's plan would not do in St. George, Hanover Square.

We are glad to hear that London is not to be entirely without meetings this session, and that the Council have arranged with Mr. Jast to open a discussion at the December meeting on "Newsrooms: Are they desirable?" It really seems as if the Council were about to revise their policy, and that they are going to make an effort to have meetings on practical and informing lines this winter.

The local fund raised at Bristol for the entertainment of the Library Association amounted to £400, and a surplus of £50 remaining after paying all expenses is to be handed over to Bristol University College.

* Printed in *The L. A. Record* for November.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The Fifth Annual Meeting of this Association was held in Birmingham, on Friday, October 26th. After visiting one of the newspaper offices (that of the *Daily Argus*), and inspecting the intricate modern machinery necessary for the rapid production of the newspaper of to-day, and the Victoria Law Courts close by (with the beautiful library premises for the use of barristers and others), the members adjourned to the Birmingham (Old) Library. Here they were hospitably entertained by the librarian (Mr. C. E. Scarse), and were greatly interested in the up-to-date fittings and appliances provided in the new premises recently erected for this historic library.

The business meeting was held in one of the rooms at the Public Reference Library, under the presidency of Mr. A. Capel Shaw (Chief Librarian). The officers elected for the ensuing year were :—*President*, Councillor W. Davies (Chairman of the Oldbury Public Library Committee and District Council); *Vice-President*, Mr. A. Capel Shaw; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. R. K. Dent; *Treasurer*, Mr. W. Downing. The rule of the Association requiring a lapse of two years before a former President can again be elected to the same office was altered; a lapse of only one year being requisite. Another rule, fixing the date of the Annual Meeting was also altered, the end of October being the date fixed instead of the end of September.

A paper was read by Mr. R. K. Dent on "The Shortcomings of Publishers," discussing various points in the production of books and periodicals which were disadvantageous to library use. The question of a Summer School for the Midlands was deferred to the next meeting, which will be held in February.

It was decided to hold meetings during the ensuing year at Oldbury, Tamworth, West Bromwich and Leamington, and the Summer Excursion at Clent.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the retiring President, to Mr. C. E. Scarse for his hospitality, and to Mr. Lancaster for permission accorded to visit the office of the *Daily Argus*.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA.

THE second General Meeting of this Association was held in Adelaide, South Australia, on October 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th, and was from first to last a most successful function. Delegates from New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, and New Zealand travelled to Adelaide to take part in the proceedings. The attendance of Mr. Thomas Rowe, M.A., from the Colony of New Zealand, was regarded with much satisfaction, for his Colony had hitherto not been represented at the meetings of the Association. Mr. Rowe proved himself a valuable delegate, and one particularly well informed about incunabula. About seventy South Australian Members and Associates also attended one or more meetings.

The meetings were held in the Elder Hall of the Adelaide University, the capacious dimensions of which were taxed to the utmost, to accommodate the large and distinguished gathering, which assembled on the evening of October 9th, when a *Conversazione* was given by the President and Executive Committee to inaugurate the meeting, His Excellency the Governor (Hallam Lord Tennyson) and the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Adelaide being among the guests.

The principal feature at the *Conversazione* was the loan exhibition of old and rare books, MSS., engravings, etc. These had been collected from about eighty different persons, and the visiting delegates from the Colonies of Victoria, Western Australia and New Zealand, exhibited some of their most valuable treasures. The arranging and cataloguing of these exhibits was assigned to Mr. W. H. Ifould, cataloguing clerk of the Public Library of South Australia, who accomplished his task most creditably and received well deserved congratulations from all who were privileged to inspect the exhibition.

The collection was open to the public for four days. On the 10th October, the President, Right Hon. Sir S. J. Way, Bart., delivered his inaugural address. Sir Samuel mentioned that he had hoped to be able to lay before the meeting some figures indicative of the growth of libraries during the century now drawing to a close, but had found it impossible to collect complete statistics; he had, therefore, been obliged to abandon that idea, and had decided instead to say a few words about the foundation and present position of the Public Library of South Australia. The address, which occupied about an hour in its delivery, gave evidence of most careful preparation and was listened to with the greatest interest by those present. Many of the points were entirely new and the announcement that the Public Library of South Australia was the oldest library in Australia, excepting the Public Library of New South Wales, was received with much pleasure by the South Australians who were present.

The President, in the course of his address, produced the minute book of the South Australian Literary Association, which was established in London, in August, 1834, and which gave a list of eighty-two works purchased in London and sent out to the new Colony of South Australia to form the nucleus of the Library to be established there. Many of these books are now on the shelves of the Public Library of South Australia, which had developed into its present dimensions after absorbing the South Australian Literary Association's Library, and its successors, the Mechanics' and South Australian Institutes.

The papers which were read before the delegates were provocative of considerable discussion, and in the course thereof ample evidence was given of the endeavours that are being made in these colonies to foster among the public a taste for reading. The comfort of readers, and the selection of literature being points upon which a good deal was said.

The papers read were :—

- 1.—“An ideal Library from a Librarian's point of view,” by E. La T. Armstrong, M.A., LL.B., Librarian of the Public Library of Victoria.
- 2.—“The relationship between the National Library and small country Libraries,” by H. C. L. Anderson, M.A. Principal Librarian of the Public Library of N. S. W.
- 3.—“The Institutes Association of South Australia,” by Thos. Burgoyne, M.P.
- 4.—“Bookbinding in Public Libraries,” by J. S. Battye, B.A., LL.B., Librarian of the Victoria Public Library, Perth, W.A.
- 5.—“The theory and practice of Library Classification,” by A. W. Brazier, M.A., Assistant Librarian of the Public Library of Victoria.
- 6.—“How the Public Libraries of Australasia may be made most useful to students,” by Prof. R. L. Douglas, M.A.
- 7.—“What Local Literature should we preserve in a Public Library?” by J. R. G. Adams, Librarian of the Public Library of South Australia.
- 8.—“Notes on early stamped leather bindings,” by Rev. F. G. Masters, M.A.
- 9.—“The Australian Author and the Libraries,” by Prof. Morris, Litt. D.
- 10.—“The works of Shakespeare as a key to the man,” by P. McM. Glynn, B.A., M.P.
- 11.—“A Scholar Librarian,” by Alex. Leeper, M.A., LL.D., University of Melbourne.
- 12.—“The relation of the Heating arrangements in Libraries and Museums to the Conservation of books and specimens,” by J. G. O. Tepper, F.L.S., Librarian of the South Australian Museum Library.

In addition to the foregoing, a lecture was delivered by Prof. Morris Litt. D., on “Captain Flinders.” His Excellency the Governor, Lord Tennyson, who presided, is a grand nephew of Captain Flinders, and it was, therefore, very appropriate for him to fill the chair on such an occasion. The subject of the lecture as the discoverer of South Australia, was a great attraction to the people of South Australia, and it was not surprising therefore, that a very large audience assembled to hear the Professor, who is a most finished lecturer, and is possessed of a fund of amusing anecdote and dry humour, which would not have tired his audience had he been willing to favour them for a much longer time than he choose to do. Professor Morris mentioned several new facts about Captain Flinders, and intimated that he proposed publishing a life of this great navigator in the near future.

Paper No. 5 was a most able and exhaustive one, but was too technical to admit of much discussion. Nos. 1, 2, 6, 7, provoked much discussion, while Nos. 10 and 11 were most scholarly compilations and were listened to with great delight.

Dr. Leeper, who attended as a delegate from the Colony of Victoria, is the originator of the Library Association of Australasia, and very properly filled the chair during one day of the Conference, while the Hon. Edward Langton, President of the Board of Trustees of the Public Library of Victoria, presided on another occasion. The Rt. Hon. Sir S. J. Way, Bart., occupied the chair on all other occasions.

An exhibit of Library Accessories by the Library Supply Company attracted much attention, and it is satisfactory to be able to say that most of the articles which were available for purchase, were speedily sold to the different librarians present.

J. R. G. ADAMS, *Librarian,*
Public Library of South Australia, Adelaide.



CORRESPONDENCE.

o o o

ARRANGEMENT OF THE PROGRAMME OF PAPERS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.

SIR,—I heartily endorse all that has been said in praise of the lavish hospitality and the admirable local arrangements of the Bristol Conference, and I think that none can fail to retain many pleasant recollections of their sojourn in that beautiful neighbourhood; but I venture to ask, what of the other and more important side of the question—that of the practical utility of the Conference?

As one of the younger members of the profession, I had looked forward to hearing some practical papers, and some helpful discussion on some of the more debatable questions of library administration, yet the most important papers of this character, those most likely to evoke hearty discussion, and which I know the larger number of members were most anxious to hear, were placed at the end of the programme, and were never reached owing to the large number of local papers (each of them excellent, no doubt, in its way), which preceded them, and to the disproportionately large amount of time allotted to excursions, etc. Well, sir, I ask, how are we to prevent a repetition of this sort of thing? For, undoubtedly, the tendency is increasing to make the conference one round of pleasure and amusement, precluding almost altogether the more serious objects of the Association, and however pleasant it may be, this is not the object for which our committees send us, and pay the piper.

I would like to suggest one or two ways which I think might tend towards improvement. First, I would suggest that a list of papers to be read at the Conference should be sent to each member a short time before the time appointed for the Conference, with a request that they should number the papers in the order in which they wish them to be

taken, and return the same to the secretary by a certain date, the programme could then be arranged according to the result of the vote, and if it was found that time did not allow of all papers being read, those which had to be shelved would be those which would cause the least disappointment. Second, I would suggest that more time be allowed for discussion, and that in all discussions a time limit of five minutes be enforced; by this means a greater number of members would be able to take part, and a greater variety of opinions expressed. Third, I would suggest that in future there be an afternoon sitting of the Conference, as was the case, I believe, up to a very few years ago.

To many members, like myself, the Annual Conference is the only opportunity they get of hearing the views and opinions of the older and more experienced members of the profession, and I think it is greatly to be deplored that these conferences are not made more practical and helpful than was the case at Bristol this year. Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours &c., GEO. W. BYERS.

Public Library, Harrogate.

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.

SIR,—I notice in the current number of the *Library World* that I am credited with the design of the Programme of the Smoking Concert held at the Bristol University College during the recent Library Conference.

I regret to record that I cannot lay claim to the artistic talent requisite to this production.

A closer inspection of the signature will reveal the artist's personality in Mr. A. L. TAYLER. Be so good as to make this correction in your next issue.

Yours, etc.,

L. A. TAYLOR.

Bristol Museum and Reference Library.

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.

THE NEW BOO.-NUM.

My Dear Sir, I beg to send, just a line or two I've penned

On an article appearing in your last;

There are points which I await, someone to elucidate,

Ere I venture "a new number" *à la* J—t.

Will it *really* be polite, in our catalogues to write

Of a celebrated botanist as SOW?

And I'm tempted sore to ask, if the author of "The Task"

Would feel flattered to be designated COW!

There's a lady who with ease, writes short studies of Chinese,

To abbreviate her name, must we write CAD?

And a gentleman whose works, tell us all about the Turks,

Are we justified in writing him as MAD?

Should the scheme adopted be, one can easily foresee
 What a saving in "chin music" we'd enjoy;
 When a borrower shall need something light and nice to read
 This is how, perchance, he'll ask for it at CROY:

Have you any books by Cor., Kip., Brad., Chol., Mer., Ho., or Wor.?
 Tyn., Hux., Lin., Thack., Lyt., Kin., Mel., Tro., Dan. or Dar.?
 Rus., Tro., Bur., El., Sar. or Crey., Stret., Bro., Oli., Zang., or Wey?
 Cos., Hen., Hun., Rit., Twa., Wal., Wo., Wes., Pay, or Par.?

Cataloguers must beware, lest some evening at "The Square,"
 When in haste they from such duties hard have fled,
 They should so forgetful be, as to take the liberty
 To address our worthy Treasurer as TED!

There would doubtless be some fun, if our friend from Kensington
 Should be called upon to "elocute" as JO!
 And its clearly very plain, that somebody would "raise Cain,"
 Did he call our "Open-Access" Member BRO!

Present methods may be crude, yet please do not think me rude
 If I venture to assert my sad belief,
 That the curtailed author-word, will make catalogues absurd,
 And the Cataloguer bring to endless grief. F. E. C.



LIBRARY RATE QUESTIONS.

THE legality of a library authority levying a library rate and providing only a reading room is about to be raised at Teddington, by Mr. J. C. Buckmaster, J.P., who has refused to pay the library rate, and gives his reasons in a letter to the *Surrey Comet*, of November 28th. It was mainly owing to Mr. Buckmaster that the Acts were adopted in 1896, and he took a prominent part in the raising of a sum of money as a nucleus of a building fund by means of an Art Exhibition. After the adoption of the Acts, plans were prepared by order of the District Council, and nearly the whole of the money required for a building was promised. At this point, the Chairman of the Council offered the use of a pair of empty villas for the purposes of a reading room until a comprehensive scheme could be prepared which would include everything. Mr. Buckmaster says:—"I saw in this manœuvre the grave of the Free Library. . . . A sum of between two and three hundred pounds has been paid in rent [£70 per annum], all of which might have been saved; add to this rates and taxes, also paid by the Council, fuel, lighting, repairs, furniture, salaries and other appointments, a sum of not less than six or seven hundred pounds has been paid, not for a Free Library, but a news room, of which there is no mention or provision in the Free Libraries Act."

This is all the more interesting, coming, as it does, immediately after the adoption of the Acts by the Hampton District Council with a half-penny rate for the sole purpose of providing reading rooms.

MONTHLY LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

SELECTED, CLASSIFIED, CATALOGUED & ANNOTATED
FOR THE USE OF LIBRARIANS & BOOK-BUYERS.

o o o

Objects—To provide a list of non-fictional books, as published, for the use of Librarians and Book-buyers generally, arranged so as to serve as a continuous catalogue of new books; an aid to exact classification and annotation; and a select list of new books proposed to be purchased. Novels, school books, ordinary reprints and strictly official publications will not be included in the meantime.

Classification.—The books are classified according to the *Adjustable* System (English) and *Decimal* System (American), the marks of the former appearing at the left, and the latter at the right side of entries, in bold type at the foot of the notes.

Annotations.—Notes are added in every case where necessary, to give information as to the scope and contents of the books. Prices and publishers' names, with other particulars, are also given. The notes are descriptive and not critical.

Exhibition of Books.—The books will remain on exhibition at the rooms of the *Library Supply Co.*, 181, *Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.*, for two months from the date of the "LIBRARY WORLD" in which they are described. Librarians or book-buyers are at liberty to call and examine these books at the above address.

Method of Use.—The lists as published in the "LIBRARY WORLD," may be used as suggestions of new books for library committees, and as aids to classification and cataloguing. They may also be obtained in a separate form, printed on sheets of thin paper, on one side only, suitable for mounting on cards, guard books, or slip books, to form catalogues of accessions. It is only necessary, when these slips are mounted, to mark out the classification number not required, and add the accession number of the library at any place thought best, to have a fairly perfect printed catalogue. If several copies of these sheet lists are procured, a subject catalogue can easily be compiled by writing the subject word in bold letters at the top of the entry at any point considered suitable. The following specimen entry shows how this can be done:—

Antarctic Regions.

6594.

Fricker, Karl. The Antarctic Regions. *II. maps.* xii + 292 pp.
London, 1900. Sonnenschein 7s. 6d.

History of South Polar exploration and discovery from the earliest to the present time. Surface and geological structure; climate; ice; fauna and flora. List of books, maps, etc.

F1354

999

The original printed entry, plus the accession number, will serve for the author entry, while the class heading provided will be a guide to the arrangement,
Vol. III., No. 31, January, 1901.

if it is proposed to keep the catalogue in classified form. It is also a very useful thing to paste one of these descriptive notes in the book itself as a guide to the reader. The price of these slips will be announced in due course, but it is thought they will only cost a few shillings per set annually.

Abbreviations.—Col. = coloured; Fo. = folio; Il. = illustrated; Lond. = London; N.D. = no date of publication; Pp. = pages; Port. = portrait.

The plan outlined in the *Library World* for August, 1900, has now been carefully considered, and it is hoped that it will be carried on in a complete and gradually improving manner from month to month. It has not been found possible to give publishers very long notice of the inauguration of this "Monthly List," hence the smallness of the first instalment. The necessity for beginning the scheme with the New Year was, however, very urgent, and it was felt that the importance of launching the List was paramount to all other considerations. The co-operation of publishers and librarians is necessary to the complete realisation of the scheme, and we trust all necessary support will be given ungrudgingly. Nothing on similar lines has ever been attempted, either in this country or the United States, and certainly no scheme, offering such substantial advantages at such a trifling cost, has ever been put before the library and literary worlds.

It is not necessary to recapitulate the arguments in favour of the scheme, which appeared in the *Library World* for August last. Every librarian is aware of the advantage which is derived from having a good list of new publications in *one*, easily accessible place, and when to this is added the additional advantage of having this list in a form which is an actual aid to book selection, cataloguing and classification, there can hardly be any question as to the great value of the scheme. The further advantage of having associated with the scheme a permanent exhibition of new books, in a centre like London, where they can be seen and carefully examined before purchase, is also of great importance. Suggestions for the improvement of the List will be welcomed, and communications addressed to the Editor of *The Library World* will receive careful consideration.

A.—SCIENCES.

Bartholomew, J. G. and A. J. Herbertson. Atlas of Meteorology: a series of over four hundred maps. Ed. by Alexander Buchan. *Col. maps.* xxiv + 40 pp. Fo., Lond., 1899. *Bartholomew's Physical Atlas, v. 3.* Constable, £2 2s.

The first volume of what will be, when completed, a very elaborate "cartographic unification of our knowledge of natural science at the present time." Based on the "Physikalischer Atlas" of Berghaus. Has explanatory text, classified bibliography and glossary.

A300

551.5

Bickerton, A. W. Romance of the Earth. *Il.* 181 pp. Lond., 1900. Sonnenschein, 2s. 6d. *net.*

A "reading book" dealing with the general facts of physiography and biology.

A28

570

B.—USEFUL ARTS.

Crouch, Joseph and Edmund Butler. The Apartments of the house, their arrangement, furnishing and decoration. *Il.* xii + 202 pp. Lond., 1900. Unicorn Press, 7s. 6d. *net*.

Artistic decoration of large houses, with chapters on furniture, and arts and crafts applied to the decoration of the room.

B492**646**

Herbert, Col. A. R. Kennéy- (*Wyvern*). Picnics and Suppers. viii + 259 pp. Lond., 1901. Sonnenschein, 2s. 6d. *net*.

"Might almost be called," says the author, "a treatise on cold dishes, the majority of which are equally suitable for luncheons."

B498**641**

Vernon, Arthur. Estate Fences; their choice, construction, and cost. And a chapter on boundaries and fences in their legal aspect; by T. W. Marshall. *Il.* x + 420 pp. Lond., 1899. Spon, 15s.

Deals with everything relating to fences, made of both dead and living material. Among the chapters is one on "Fences as shown on Plans." Has a list of works referred to, list of manufacturers, and glossary.

B28**630****C.—FINE AND RECREATIVE ARTS.**

Elworthy, F. T. Horns of Honour, and other studies in the by-ways of Archæology. *Il.* (1 col.) xii + 315 pp. Lond., 1900.

Murray, 10s. 6d. *net*.

The first chapter deals with the symbolism of the horns (or crescent) as indicative of distinction and honour, the second chapter as signifying the reverse, as the horns of the devil, &c. The next two chapters deal with the symbolism of the hand, and chapter 5 and last with some terra cotta discs covered with figures found in excavations in Italy.

C228**246**

Statham, H. H. Modern Architecture: a book for architects and the public. *Il.*, x + 420 pp., Lond., 1897. Chapman & Hall, 10s. 6d.

Chapter 1 deals with "The Present Position," and chapters 2, 3, 4 and 5 with "Church," "State and Municipal," "Domestic," and "Street Architecture," while a final chapter is "A Note on the Influence of Iron." Various modern buildings are criticised in illustration of the principles laid down. The reader may be referred to the same author's "Architecture for general readers."

C204**724****D.—SOCIAL SCIENCE.**

Ashley, W. J. Surveys: Historic and economic. xxviii + 476 pp., Lond., 1900. Longmans, 9s. *net*.

Forty-five essays, classified under the following heads: Preliminary (mainly on the study of economic history); Mediæval Agrarian; Mediæval Urban; Economic Opinion; England and America 1660-1760 (commercial legislation and smuggling); Industrial Organisation; Biographical; Academic. Many of the essays are reviews of works like Mrs. Green's "Town Life in the Fifteenth Century," Round's "Commune of London," &c. Has an alphabetical table of contents, but no index.

D94**330**

Maulde la Clavière, R. de. Women of the Renaissance : a study of Feminism. Trans. by G. H. Ely. *1 port.*, xvii + 510 pp., Lond., 1901. Sonnenschein, 10s. 6d.

A complete review of the "woman movement" of the Renaissance period in France, her family and social life, and her political, moral, intellectual, and religious influence. The moral drawn by the author from the Renaissance feminism is "that good women should love the beautiful, and that virtue can be neither tiresome nor torpid. . . True sweetness, true goodness, true love come, not of naïveté or feebleness, but of intelligence and personal force.

D24

396

E.—PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION.

Flammarion, Camille. The Unknown. (L'Inconnu.) *II.*, Lond., 1900. Harper, 7s. 6d.

Telepathy, mental suggestion, hallucinations, dreams, second sight, and kindred phenomena. The author concludes from his investigations "that the soul exists, and that it is endowed with faculties at present unknown."

E26

130

F.—HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY.

Cook, Frederick A. Through the first Antarctic night, 1898-99. A narrative of the voyage of the "Belgica" among newly discovered lands, and over an unknown sea about the South Pole. *II. (some col.) maps, ports.*, xxiv + 478 pp. Lond., 1900. Heinemann, 20s. net.

Belgian Antarctic Expedition to the Polar Regions south of S. America, with appendix of scientific results.

F1384

999

Corbett, Julian S. The Successors of Drake. *II. ports.*, xiv + 464, Lond., 1900. Longmans, 21s.

Sequel to "Drake and the Tudor Navy." English wars with Spain, 1589-1601. Expedition to Cadiz, Armadas, Documents illustrating English naval history.

F676

389

Fricker, Karl. The Antarctic regions. *II. maps.* xii + 292 pp. Lond., 1900. Sonnenschein, 7s. 6d.

History of South Polar exploration and discovery from the earliest to the present time. Surface and geological structure; climate; ice; fauna and flora. List of books, maps, &c.

F1384

999

Gannon, John P. A Review of Irish History in relation to the social development of Ireland. 282 pp., Lond., 1900. Unwin, 4s. net.

Aims to "explain historically some of the difficulties suggested by the present state of Ireland." Chapters on Ancient and Mediæval Ireland, Conquest of Ireland. Confiscations. Colonial supremacy. Rise of the masses.

F630

941.5

Gross, Charles. The Sources and Literature of English History from the earliest times to about 1485. xx + 618 pp., Lond., 1900. Longmans, 18s. *net*.

Annotated bibliography of the printed sources and authorities for the history of England, Wales and Ireland, classified under the heads of General Authorities; Celtic, Roman, and Germanic origins; Anglo-Saxon period; Norman Conquest to about 1485. Includes Law, Church, Commerce, Social history, &c. Full index.

F628

942

Heckethorn, Charles W. London memories, social, historical, and topographical. vi + 374 pp., Lond., 1900.

Chatto & Windus, 6s.

Antiquarian Papers on London houses, Executions, Plague, Kilburn Priory, Street names, Trades, Blackfriars, Windmills, Vauxhall Bridge, fires from 764 to 1800, Wells and springs, River Thames, &c. Full index.

F742

942.1

Johnston, Alex. K. and G. H. Johnston. The Royal Atlas of Modern Geography, exhibiting, in a series of entirely original and authentic maps, the present condition of geographical discovery and research in the several countries, empires and states of the world. 57 *col. maps*, Fo., Edin. and Lond., 1901. W. & A. K. Johnston, £6 6s.

Revised edition of the late A. Keith Johnston's well-known atlas. There are inset town plans, small scale, and separate indexes of places for each map.

F76

912

Keller, C. Madagascar, Mauritius and the other East-African Islands. *Il., col. maps*, xiii + 242 pp. Lond., 1901. Sonnenschein, 7s. 6d.

History, geography, and government of Madagascar, Réunion, Mauritius, Seychelles, Kerguelen, &c. Has brief list of authorities,

F190 × 192

969

Whiteing, Richard. The Life of Paris. 261 pp., Lond., 1900.

Murray, 6s.

Contains articles on The governmental machine, Parisian pastimes, Artistic Paris, Paris of the Faubourgs, Life on the boulevard, Fashionable Paris. All relating to present-day Paris.

F1014

944.36

G.—BIOGRAPHY AND CORRESPONDENCE.

Childe-Pemberton, William S. The Baroness de Bode, 1775-1803. *Ports.*, xx + 296 pp. Lond., 1900. Longmans, 12s. 6d. *net*.

Memoir of Mary Kynnersley, who married Baron de Bode, and was exiled with him from France during the French Revolution. Pictures of life in France and Russia, based upon her letters.

G88

B

Leonard, John W. Ed. *Who's Who in America: a biographical dictionary of living men and women of the United States, 1899-1900.* xxxii + 822 pp. Chicago. n.d. [1900.]

Marquis & Co., 14s. *net*.

Modelled on the English "Who's Who," but more comprehensive, with 8,602 notices. Contains sections devoted to Educational, Birth, and Residence statistics, and a necrology, 1895-1900.

G4

920.07

Moody, W. R. *The Life of Dwight L. Moody.* *II. ports.* 509 pp. Lond. n.d. [1900].

Morgan & Scott, 5s.

Official authorised edition of the life of the American evangelist, 1837-1899. No index.

G88

922.6

Rosebery, Earl of. *Napoleon. The last phase.* 261 pp. Lond., 1900.

A. L. Humphreys, 7s. 6d.

Critical study of the last years of Napoleon I., 1815-1821, and his captivity at St. Helena, with a review of the principal authorities.

G88

923.1

Sharp, R. F. *Architects of English literature; biographical sketches of great writers from Shakespeare to Tennyson.* 326 pp. Lond., 1900.

Sonnenschein, 5s. *net*.

Sketches of Shakespeare, Bacon, Milton, Defoe, Swift, Pope, Johnson, Gray, Goldsmith, Cowper, Burns, Wordsworth, Scott, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley, Keats, Macaulay, Carlyle, Emerson, Longfellow, Thackeray, Dickens, Tennyson. Illustrated with fac-simile of autograph MSS.

G84

928

H.—LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.

Plomer, Henry R. *A Short history of English Printing, 1476-1898.* *II., ports.* xvi + 330 pp. Lond., 1900. Kegan Paul, 10s. 6d. *net*.

Vol. 2 of *The English Bookman's Library*, ed. by Alfred Pollard. Chronological account of printers and typefounders, with specimens of type, marks, &c.

H400

655.13

J.—POETRY AND THE DRAMA.

Tennyson, Alfred, Lord. *Princess: adapted and arranged for amateur performance in girls' schools.* By Elsie Fogerty. *II.* xx + 40 pp. Lond., 1901.

Sonnenschein, 2s. 6d. *net*.

Preceding the text are instructions as to stage and lighting, dresses, &c., and the illustrations include costume plates by Isabel Bonus.

J82

822

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA.

o o o

AS a supplement to the interesting general report of the recent congress of this Association sent by Mr. J. R. G. Adams, published last month, we now give a series of more detailed extracts of the principal papers of interest to librarians, abstracted from *The Register* of Adelaide. These cuttings were sent by Mr. Adams, Secretary of the Association, and to him the librarians of the Mother Country are much indebted for being thus kept informed of library progress in the New Australian Commonwealth.

ABSTRACT OF PAPERS.

A MODEL LIBRARY.

Mr. E. La T. Armstrong, Librarian of the Public Library of Victoria, read an interesting paper on "A Model Library from a Librarian's Point of View." He expressed the opinion that it was well to have an ideal, even if it was impossible to reach it, and it seemed to him that in Australia they had no conception of an ideal library, and no standard for which to strive. Among librarians who had given any thought to the subject, certain essentials were so well recognised that it should not be impossible to imagine a library that would fairly satisfy their needs. In other countries the matter was engaging serious attention, but, so far as he could ascertain, no radical improvement had been made on Panizzi's idea, as carried out in the British Museum. He planned a great circular reading-room, and provided for surplus volumes and future additions in store-rooms within easy access. No greater tribute had been paid to the excellence of the idea than the fact that the newly erected Library of Congress at Washington had been built on similar lines. He thought that this system might be accepted as a basis for a model library, as it afforded scope for a fair compromise between absolutely free access to the shelves and entire exclusion, and provided for a maximum of supervision at a minimum of cost. If they accepted the idea in the main, details might be marked out according to circumstances. The chief feature of a library should be a great reading-room, with perfect ventilation and good light, so designed as to be entirely overlooked from a central point. He would assume that they were dealing with a large and growing library, and they might at once give up the idea that all books were to be available to the public without the medium of an attendant. As soon as a library assumed certain proportions the system of unrestricted access became impracticable. Mr. Armstrong then gave an outline of the principal features of the great Library of Congress just erected in America, which had been designed on a magnificent plan, as was shown by the fact that £1,250,000 had been voted for the cost of the building, and a period of eight years was allowed for construction. America had endeavoured to build a national library worthy of a great nation. Turning to what was in some respects its prototype, the British Museum, they found that the

reading-room of that institution, including store-rooms, cost about £150,000 at the time of its opening in 1857. This was only mentioned to show that the enormous sum spent at Washington included more than necessities, and it suggested the question whether by simpler designs and less costly buildings to carry out the main ideas in the more important of their Australian libraries. In smaller libraries the question of open access and store-rooms was not of immediate importance. But would it not be well to anticipate a little? Many Australian towns might become large cities before many years had passed, and it would be well even in the smaller towns, to build on a plan that would be capable of indefinite extension. In a large library he did not believe that fifty per cent. of the volumes would be used once a year, but he had no wish to gauge the value of a library by what was commonly read therein, but, on the contrary, he would say that the books that were least read in a library were in many instances the very books which gave it whatever claim it had to greatness. It was sufficient that the library should possess these books, and that they should be readily accessible to those who required them. In an ideal library they would look for the best of everything, and their best should be widely interpreted. It was sometimes argued that certain books should not be in a Public Library on the ground of morality. That argument was good only as against the indiscriminate use of the books in question. The censorship of a circulating library was simple; even doubtful books should be left out; but in a reference library that did not apply. There should be discrimination as to what books were issued, that was all, and the censorship should be cautiously used. An ideal library should contain works of monumental folly as well as works of monumental wisdom.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATIONAL AND COUNTRY LIBRARIES.

An exceedingly able and suggestive paper was contributed by Mr. H. C. L. Anderson, M.A., Librarian of the Public Library of New South Wales, on "The Relationship between the National and Small Country Libraries." Mr. Anderson was, unfortunately, prevented from attending the Convention, and in his absence the paper was read by the Secretary, Mr. Adams. After stating that he desired to induce a discussion on the advantages of the Public Library and the best means of extending them, the writer remarked that all the colonies had shown a generous spirit in assisting in the formation of country libraries, and in contributing to their future growth. Whether the thousands voted for this educational purpose were wisely spent was another question. He found a strange reluctance on the part of some people to carry this system to its logical issue. They would subsidise communities which were able to erect a school of arts, and to raise a certain revenue, however indirect the methods employed, by means of an initial grant for building, and a yearly vote for purchase of books. But to the group of poor students in a remote bush hamlet nothing was given. The individual

student, suffering all the disadvantages incidental to isolation in a country district, could not be helped on any terms by the educational reformer, who was bound too tightly with red tape. He failed to see why the single *bonâ-fide* student in the country districts should not get the sympathy and cordial assistance of the true librarians as readily as the group of people—perhaps some students, possibly more billiard-players—who had constituted themselves a school of arts, with full authority to draw an annual subsidy, and to borrow a box of books every four months from the National Library. He need hardly explain that it would be obviously impossible for any library to supply light reading to country readers, but they had proved in New South Wales that it was quite practicable to give substantial help to hundreds of earnest men and women throughout the colony without interfering in any serious way with the thousands of city borrowers. After expressing his admiration of the book box system which was in operation in South Australia, Mr. Anderson stated that he wished to indicate the ways in which the State Library could assist country libraries, groups of students in remote hamlets, and even individual students. (1) By issuing at regular intervals a carefully chosen list of the best works in all classes issued during the preceding period. Evidently the time is not yet ripe for the publication of the proposed library journal, for they could not get 100 country institutes to pay the necessary subscription of 10s. to ensure financial success. However, for the benefit of country friends who had not the opportunities of consulting critical reviews and of handling and sampling the literary wares offered by booksellers, he thought they could, and should, be willing to prepare quarterly lists of the best books suitable for country readers and students. (2) With the aid of an adequate annual grant they could equip boxes of the best classic and modern literature, to be sent on loan to any small country library or group of students who could show their *bonâ-fide* desire for study, and would furnish satisfactory guarantees as to fair usage and safe return. If each country library would subscribe a fair amount—say £5 per annum each—to be supplemented by an equal amount from the Government grant, it could get the loan of 200 volumes of the best literature, in parcels of fifty, every quarter. When these boxes had circulated throughout all the subscribers—say every three years—they might be equipped afresh, and the volumes withdrawn be distributed equally among the institutions interested. (3) He also advocated the continuance of the present system of giving an annual grant to each library for the purpose of enabling them to form the nucleus of a permanent reference library best suited to the conditions of the district concerned. But the grant should be calculated on the basis of money spent during the year on approved books and such other educational agencies as might be recognised. The present system of calculating the subsidy on the basis of subscriptions was too apt to encourage the gathering of subscriptions by all sorts of means—direct and indirect—by the meretricious allurements of billiard tables, card-rooms, and other appurtenances of what ought to be regarded as private recreation clubs. These subsidies should be allocated by one responsible officer

working under the directions of the trustees of the Public Library. He had found that this responsible handling of thousands of pounds of public money needed more than the incidental attention of some clerical officer, who probably has no expert knowledge of library matters, and who might be distracted by other multifarious duties.

(4) He would lend to any *bonâ-fide* student in the country any book from the lending branch that could help him in any course of genuine study, whether in history, in science, or in pure literature. Of course, the treasures of a reference library could not possibly be sent out on loan—merely the books available in the lending branch, or from the duplicates of the reference collection. If the expenses of sending whole boxes of books was borne by the State, these single books should be sent and returned absolutely free. It was surely as logical to send good books free as to send all classes of newspapers free. If the freight on boxes had to be paid by borrowers, then they might logically ask the individual borrowers to pay cost of postage; but in any case there should be a special rate for such books, say quarter rates, such as was charged on parcels of books sent by train.

The paper gave rise to a long and exceedingly interesting discussion. The first speaker, Mr. Elwood, of Broken Hill, strongly opposed many of the suggestions made by the writer on the ground that they savoured too much of socialism. There was a grave danger that, in their desire to bring the contents of the libraries within the reach of every one, they would overreach themselves. They should also consider the injury that would be done to the book trade if students in the country districts could obtain all the books they required from the central libraries. He did not wish to shut out any one who was entitled to the use of the books in the Public Libraries, but there was a limit beyond which it was not wise to extend those facilities. Other speakers objected to the proposal to post books to individual students, on the ground that by so doing a very much larger number of students in the central districts might be deprived of the use of them. On the other hand it was argued that it would be a comparatively simple matter for the librarian of a central library to keep in stock duplicate copies of works of reference that students would be most likely to require. It was pointed out that young State school teachers who were stationed in out-lying districts were often deprived of all opportunity for extending their studies, and that country students often required standard text-books and works of reference which were too expensive for them to purchase. One of the lady delegates took exception to the proposal to grant increased facilities for borrowing books, on the ground that it created a disinclination on the part of young people to make sacrifices for the purpose of acquiring a library of their own. She also expressed a doubt as to whether the opening of billiard and card rooms in connection with country Institutes was an unqualified advantage. She admitted that by this means many men who would not otherwise visit the Institutes were attracted, but stated that she had found from experience that this class of student usually evinced more anxiety to cultivate the use of their hands than

their brains. Mr. J. S. Battye agreed with the principle of circulating boxes of books among the country Institutes, but depreciated the suggestion that books should be sent out to individual students from the central reference library. These Public Libraries were supported by the taxpayers, and the books should always be available for every member of the community at the library. He agreed that it might be done by keeping duplicate books of reference, but warned the meeting that it would prove a costly process owing to the number of books that would be lost. Professor Salmond expressed the opinion that the scheme of sending out books from a central library was impracticable, and that it would be better to concentrate all their energies upon the object of perfecting the relations between the National Library and the country Institutes. They should place before themselves the ideal of one great central reference library, with a branch circulating library in every town and village in intimate union and co-operation with the central institution. The country library should not be encouraged or even allowed to attempt to exist independently of the central library. Such an attempt must end in a precarious and inadequate condition, when, by being associated with a common scheme of circulation, every country Institute might be in constant receipt of new, good and wholesome literature. A stationary collection of books soon become stale and uninteresting to the subscribers, but if the present system of circulating boxes of books could be more perfectly systematized they might find on the shelves of their Institute library a constant supply of new books of all classes.

FACILITIES FOR STUDENTS.

The morning session was opened by an address on "How the Public Libraries of Australia may be made most useful to Students," by Professor Douglas, M.A., Professor of History at the Adelaide University. In introducing the subject, Professor Douglas said he expected that some of the librarians present would consider many of the suggestions he was about to make impracticable; but he could assure them that the reforms which he desired to see introduced had been tried with success in many of the American and Continental libraries. With reference to the internal arrangements of libraries it was essential that students should have open access to the shelves. It was often impossible for a man who was working up any special subject to say from looking at a catalogue what book he would require; whereas if he had free access to all parts of a good reference library, he would often find valuable information from books which he would never think of asking for. Much time was necessarily lost when he had to wait for an attendant to obtain the large number of books which sometimes had to be consulted on a single subject. Secondly, he strongly insisted upon students being allowed to take their own books into the library. This not only saved time, but was invaluable for reference purposes. He knew that this was strongly objected to by librarians on the ground that it made it more difficult for the attendants to prevent visitors from

taking books out of the library. He could say from personal knowledge, however, that this system had been in operation in Italy for a considerable time. The concession was granted only to *bona-fide* students, and they were obliged to obtain a pass from the doorkeeper before they were allowed to take in their own books. They were liable to be called upon to produce this pass at any time, and could take out of the library only the books in respect of which the pass had been issued. It would also be a great advantage if students could have their books reserved. He admitted that this could only be allowed in exceptional cases, but by means of numbered tables a book which had been reserved could be found immediately if it should be required by another reader. It would be a great advantage if the several libraries in large centres of population could be pooled. In Adelaide, for instance, there were three large reference libraries. He had sometimes found that a particular book which he required was not in either the Public or University Libraries, but it might be in the Parliamentary Library or *vice versa*. In such cases a considerable amount of time was lost in making enquiries at the several institutions, whereas, if there was a complete catalogue of the whole of the books in the three libraries it could be sent for without delay. He was hopeful that when federation was established this system of pooling would be extended to the libraries of the various colonies. It sometimes happened that a student in Adelaide required a book which could only be found in the Melbourne or Sydney Libraries. If his proposal were adopted, all that would be necessary would be to apply to the librarian of the Adelaide Library for the loan of the book for a few days, and it could be returned through the same channel when it had served its purpose. The practical effect of the limited pooling of the five great national libraries of the Australian capitals would be that to the poorest student a library of about 250,000 volumes would be available. At present the largest library in Australia contained 170,000 volumes, and it was impossible for a student in Melbourne to consult a book in Sydney or Adelaide without undertaking an expensive journey.

BOOKBINDING IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Mr. J. S. Battye, Librarian of the Perth Public Library, read a paper on "Bookbinding in Public Libraries." The question was one of considerable importance, especially in the case of large libraries not particularly well endowed with funds. One of the difficulties in a librarian's work was to get books bound in a durable material which gave a presentable appearance at the least possible cost. After specifying the principal difficulties which had to be contended with, the writer compared the relative merits of the various leathers used in binding. The cheapest leather was roan, and the hard-grained quality was preferable. This leather resisted the action of gas fairly well, but the surface was apt to rub off, when it became useless. Calf was elegant and hard-wearing, but it was much affected by gas and heat, which caused it to split along the joints. It was therefore better suited for a

private than a Public Library. So far as his experience went, he found that morocco was, on the whole, by far the most satisfactory material for Public Libraries. It took the lettering splendidly, and resisted the action of gas and heat better than other leathers. He was so well satisfied with morocco that he had practically discarded other leathers in its favour. Even in the matter of expense, he had come to the conclusion that it was the cheapest in the long run. Pigskin was undoubtedly the hardest leather, but he had found that it contained so much grease that several leaves at each end of the volume were often seriously damaged by it. Vellum was durable, and looked well, but was not flexible, and consequently it required open backs. He had long held the opinion that it was possible for the larger libraries, at any rate, to do their own bookbinding, and so save whatever margin of profit there might be, which was an important item when the annual outlay for binding was heavy.

LIBRARY CLASSIFICATION.

Mr. A. W. Brazier, one of the representatives of the Public Library of Victoria, read a carefully prepared and exhaustive paper on "The Theory and Practice of Library Classification." It would be admitted that the prime function of any library system was to give information readily, first as to whether a library contained a work by any given author; and secondly what it contained, if anything, on any specified subject. For practical purposes all other questions could be resolved into these two. Any system of cataloguing to be of value must be practical as well as practicable. He was not advocating any concrete scheme of his own, but would merely lay down the principles upon which any scientific system of classification must be based. The need for a scientific basis increased every year. Edwards, in his "Memoirs of Libraries," tabulated thirty schemes, nineteen of which were avowedly drawn up for practical purposes. They were all, however, out of touch with the advanced results of assimilation and discrimination that scientific methods had reached in late years. After dealing exhaustively with the details of the classification of various branches of literature, and comparing the various methods which had been advocated for the purpose of giving readers a complete and easily understood catalogue, Mr. Brazier said, granting that minute classification were necessary, the following were some of the more important conclusions that might be drawn from the principles laid down by Mr. Dewey, the inventor of one of the systems mentioned. (1.) That minute shelf classification was not only impossible, but undesirable and unnecessary. (2.) That such classification could be done only by record—on paper. (3.) That the present dictionary catalogue was too empirical for such a purpose, as it had no scientific basis. (4.) That Mr. Dewey's system, with modifications, or some such system, supplied such a scientific basis, and was applicable to for record classification rather than for the purpose for which it was intended, viz., shelf classification. (5.) That so far as Mr. Dewey's system was decimal it was

not classification at all, but notation. (6.) That some system of simple notation was indispensable in a library the shelves of which were open to the public. It was possible by taking what was best of all that had been done for them by their fellow-librarians—especially in America, where the conditions generally were more like those in Australia than were those of the old country—and by applying it in the best way, to get a sound dictionary record, and an accurate minute classification in the form of what was practically a classed catalogue.

EARLY STAMPED BINDINGS.

An interesting paper, entitled "Notes on Early Stamped Leather Bindings," was presented by the Rev. F. G. Masters, M.A. He described the subject as "a chapter in the history of bibliopegy that had not yet become familiar to antiquaries." Of late years some fine works of historical bindings, with beautiful illustrations, had been published; but without exception these works had been confined practically to gilt tooled specimens of the bookbinders' art. He then reviewed the gradual evolution of the art of stamping from its inception, and exhibited a large collection of pencil rubbings to illustrate the various phases of his subject.

A SCHOLAR LIBRARIAN.

Dr. Leeper, M.A., LL.D., President of the Victorian Branch of the Association, read a paper entitled "A Scholar Librarian." Learning was an essential qualification for a librarian, especially for the chief librarian. He would not say it was the only essential, for administrative ability must come before everything else; but, as a librarian held an almost unique position for guiding, assisting, and stimulating students, it was obvious that he himself should be a student and a lover of books. He believed this view was not universally held by librarians, and he had been told that there was a saying in the profession that the librarian who read his books was lost. But he had no toleration for such an opinion, and such was not the principle upon which the heads of the great libraries of Europe and America were chosen. Therefore in this new country the standard should not be fixed lower than it was in older communities. It was true that the primary duty of the librarian was to cause others to read, but the more learning he had of all kinds the better fitted would he be to carry out the duties of his office. It was only the scholarly librarian who could hope to have in his life any of the romance of library discovery, for literary "finds" came only to those who were able to estimate the value of the documents which came in their way. He then referred to the valuable discovery by Bradshaw of documents of great value that had been lying on the shelves of the Cambridge Library unnoticed and forgotten for 200 years, and mentioned several other instances of a similar kind which had been reported during the last few years. It was heart-rending to think how many priceless treasures had been lost for ever

by the ignorance of those in charge of great libraries in the past. In these days, too, there were steadily increasing demands upon the librarian, and they all necessitated a higher educational standard. The best cataloguers of to-day refused to be bound by the antiquated ways of the British Museum, and sought to know more of a book than its title-page. An uneducated person could not make a satisfactory catalogue, and, although technical skill in all that related to library administration was essential, the two must be harmoniously united as in Bradshaw. The possibilities of closer relations between Public Libraries and educational institutions should be one of the aspirations of the new librarianship. Libraries and Universities should seek to co-operate to a greater extent, and the Australian Universities should honour their librarians more than was now done. A more definite recognition of the place of the public librarian in the educational machinery of the country should be one of the chief aims of the Association.

PRESERVATION OF LOCAL LITERATURE.

A discussion took place on the question, "What Local Literature should be Preserved in a Public Library?" Mr. J. R. G. Adams introduced the subject in a brief address. He expressed the opinion that all local literature should be preserved in a national library, and that copies of all the newspapers issued in the colony should be kept, although it might not be necessary to bind them all in the case of small provincial papers. Several delegates took part in the discussion, the majority of whom supported Mr. Adams's views. It was pointed out that the Board of Trustees of the Melbourne Public Library had decided that all newspapers should be preserved, but many of them were stored without being bound.



THE ANNOTATION OF HISTORICAL BOOKS.

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FOR some years past a small section of English librarians have been recognizing the value of annotations to books of all kinds in their catalogues, and have attempted to supply them regularly as far as possible. There can be no doubt that this movement is spreading slowly, but surely, in all directions, and as it becomes more certain that the classified form of catalogue is the best and most convenient medium for conveying these annotations, the practice will be extended much more generally. The nature of the dictionary form of catalogue makes it unsuitable as a vehicle for the display of annotations, as its bulk would be enormously increased, without adding greatly to its value, owing to the separation of kindred topics to suit the alphabetical form of arrangement. It may be said, therefore, that the

cataloguing of historical works in English dictionary catalogues has not been satisfactory, and that very little effort is made by the compilers of such lists to distinguish one book from another, or show in any way the period covered in different histories, or their subject matter. The result is that this slavish adherence to the title-page is the cause of endless trouble and annoyance to both students and general readers, because no attempt is made to guide them in their search for particular periods, events, or treatment of any subject, while the absence of classification produces chaos. To show the kind of thing usually put before Public Library readers, the following typical entries from dictionary catalogues are given :—

ENGLAND.

CAPGRAVE (J.) *Chronicle of England.* 1858.

HUME (D.) *History of England.* 1878.

LINGARD (J.) *History of England.* 10v. 1855.

MACAULAY (LORD). *History of England.* 2v. 1883.

NORGATE (K.) *England under the Angevin Kings.* 2v. 1887.

RANKE (L. VON) *History of England.* 6v. 1875.

The very slightest acquaintance with historical authors will show that this method of cataloguing history is positively mischievous, because it displays every history as a general one, makes no attempt to show the difference between a monkish chronicler and a modern critical historian, and implies that each book covers a period at least down to its date of publication. Imagine, then, the feelings of a citizen who withdraws Capgrave's "Chronicle" for an account of the coronation of Queen Victoria; or of the schoolboy who takes out Macaulay's celebrated *History* for the best description of the Battle of Waterloo!

Luckily for the credit of English librarianship, this slipshod method of cataloguing history is not universal, for, as before stated, there are a few librarians who have done a little to improve matters by giving more information about books in a properly classified form. The work of all librarians in the department of cataloguing will now be very considerably aided by a recent publication,* which will not only help them to describe historical books, but also to select them. From the librarian's point of view this is certainly the most valuable contribution to library science which has appeared for a long time. Mr. Gross, who writes the well-known books on *The Guild Merchant* and *A Bibliography of British Municipal History*, has now produced a work on the great number of books which exist concerning old English history, second in importance to none which has ever been published in elucidation of the materials for the history of the country. A more thorough piece of work it would be difficult to imagine. One more helpful to librarians on its particular topic does not exist. The object of the work is defined by Mr. Gross as being "a systematic survey of the printed materials relating to the political, constitutional, legal, social, and economic

**The Sources and Literature of English History from the earliest times to about 1485*, By Charles Gross, Ph.D., Harvard University. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1900. pp. xx-618. Price 18s. net.

history of England, Wales and Ireland." Manuscript materials are dealt with only incidentally, while Scotland is omitted, save in so far as her history influenced that of England. Within these limits, and that of the period indicated on the title-page, the book is a perfect marvel of research, careful compilation, and clear exposition. It is divided into four main parts as follows—1. General Authorities; 2. Celtic, Roman and Germanic Origins; 3. The Anglo-Saxon Period; 4. From the Norman Conquest to about 1485. The general division has such sub-divisions as Bibliography, Journals, Philology, Chronology; Palæography and Diplomatics, Heraldry, Biography and Genealogy, Geography, Numismatics, &c.; Archives; Printed Collections of Sources; and Modern Writers. The other sub-divisions have sections devoted to books by and on early Chroniclers, Laws, Government, Church, Poetry, Land Tenure, Local Records, &c. Within each of these sub-divisions is given a list of authors and titles of the best works on every subject, frequently with valuable critical and descriptive notes, and each section is prefaced by a brief but ample general note on the chief works and authorities concerned, with a helpful appreciation of their differences and standing. The whole is clearly classified to show the bearing of one author on another, and the relative topics can all be studied in juxtaposition to each other; while an ample author and subject-index makes reference easy. Foreign, as well as English writers, are included, and it is interesting to find so many of the critical and authoritative works on English laws, history, and customs emanating from Germany, of which country, we understand, Mr. Gross is himself a native. One of the most useful features to librarians will be the complete list of the Rolls Series, in which the various chronicles and records are described at length. Many Public Libraries have obtained these records, but have hesitated to catalogue them, owing to difficulties which some shrink from facing. Mr. Gross has, however, provided all that is necessary in this respect, and it will no longer be advisable for any librarian to content himself with a bare copy of the useless and badly arranged catalogue issued by the Stationery Office. Such works as the "Anglo-Saxon Chronicle," the "Heimskringla," Rymer's "Fœdera," and those of the various monkish chroniclers are described at length, and abundant material has been provided for the cataloguer's annotations, not to speak of an endless series of suggestions. To illustrate the value of Mr. Gross's work we shall give an extract from one of the sections, and compare it side by side with the catalogue entries of libraries using annotations and libraries which do not.

GROSS.

Trevelyan, G. M., *England in the age of Wycliffe*. London, 1899.

Cha. I.-III. Political History, 1368-81.

Cha. IV.-V. Religion.

Cha. VI. The Peasants' Rising, 1381.

Cha. VII. General History, 1381-85.

Cha. VIII.-IX. The Lollards, 1382-1520.

Deals mainly with the early part of Richard II.'s reign, especially with the rise of Lollardy and the Peasants' revolt. Valuable.

ANNOTATED CLASSIFIED CATALOGUE.

Trevelyan, George M., *England in the age of Wycliffe*.
[1368-1399] 1899. Map.

Politics, Society, Religion. Lollards, 1382-99, 1400-1520.

DICTIONARY CATALOGUE.

Trevelyan, G. M., *England in the age of Wycliffe*. 1899.

It will be seen that, while both Mr. Gross and the librarian using annotations manage to convey to the ordinary reader some idea of the contents of this book, the dictionary catalogue fails to give any information beyond what is comprised on the title-page. This is an example of the manner in which history is catalogued in the majority of English and American libraries using the dictionary form, and it must be perfectly clear that such entries are useless to the public as aids to the intelligent selection of suitable books. The labours of Mr. Gross should do much to improve matters in the future, and we strongly recommend every public librarian to procure this book without delay, in order to be in a position to catalogue history with critical knowledge. May we also express the hope that Mr. Gross will devote his attention to the later period of English history, down to at least 1603, or some other well-defined date, before England becomes finally merged in the vaster realms of the British Empire?



PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGHES.

II.

CHELSEA.

A PUBLIC enquiry was held at Paddington, on December 7th, 1900, to consider the questions arising out of the transfer of the Queen's Park or Kensal Town Library from Chelsea to Paddington, under the London Government Act, 1899. Mr. Pemberton Leach, assistant commissioner, conducted the enquiry, and there were representatives present from both Chelsea and Paddington, including Mr. J. Henry Quinn, the Chief Librarian of Chelsea. Both sides claimed compensation—Chelsea on the ground that it was losing a branch which cost over £7,000, and Paddington on the ground that Chelsea would save considerably on the charge for annual maintenance, while Paddington would have to support a library which they had no power to maintain out of the rates. It appears that the district which has been detached from Chelsea has been divided between the boroughs of Kensington and Paddington, and that the library is situated in the Paddington portion. The rate produces only £204 per annum in the Paddington area, while the annual cost of maintaining the library has been, on an average, £925, thus showing a gain to Chelsea of £721

per annum, and, of course, a corresponding charge on Paddington, if the library is to be maintained in a state of efficiency. The Assistant Commissioner made it quite plain at the enquiry that it must be maintained efficiently, as provided by the Act and scheme, so that there will be some novel adjustment required in order to attain this end. We believe this is the first time a fully equipped library has been made over to a reluctant authority, and it will be interesting to watch future developments in Paddington, especially as to whether this unwelcome gift will force on the adoption of the Acts.

MARYLEBONE.

Mr. Straus, L.C.C., having given notice that he would move that the Borough Council take steps to adopt the Public Libraries' Act with as little delay as possible; it was duly discussed by the Borough Council and the question indefinitely postponed.

ISLINGTON.

An agitation is proceeding in the local papers for the adoption of the Public Libraries' Acts, but it is feared that the provision of a new town hall will first engage the attention of the Council, and thus interfere with the success of the movement.

STEPNEY.

The Borough Council has adopted the following resolution:—
“That the existing Commissioners under the Public Libraries' Acts for any parish or district within the borough be requested to continue to discharge their duties as such Commissioners during the pleasure of the Council.” This is only a temporary measure, and it is not known how long it will last. The officers have all been transferred.

SOUTHWARK.

The committee which we announced in our last number as having been formed in this borough have elected the Rev. A. W. Jephson as chairman, and appointed sub-committees *pro tem.* to manage the four libraries comprised in the district. It has also been decided that Newington shall be a centre for reference books, St. Saviour for local literature and prints, and St. George-the-Martyr for technical books and periodicals.



LIBRARY REPORTS AND JOURNALS.

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WE have received a batch of library magazines of great interest. V. iv., No. 2 of the **Manchester Libraries Quarterly Record** maintains its high standard of usefulness. The annotated list of books on China in the reference library is, on the whole, well done, although some of the annotations might be advantageously shortened or dispensed with. *E.g.*, the note to Chirol's "Far Eastern Question" has little value, and the insertion of "[1883-4]" after "Western China" in the title of Hosie's "Three Years in Western China" would have made the first paragraph of the note unnecessary. **Middlesbrough's** Magazine for October is too fully annotated. The notes are brief critical reviews. But how can such estimates be formed without reading the books? "Bury, J. B.; (ed.) Gibbon's Decline, &c.," is not well arranged. The proofs should receive more care: in the note to Graham's "Social Life of Scotland" there are two misprints—"thpe eople" for "the people," and "gives" for "give"; and Ruskin, in the notice of Mrs. Meynall's "John Ruskin," is credited with "The Crown of Wild Olives." These are not the only errors. From the notice of Mrs. Meynell's book we also make the following excerpt, which we fail to understand:—

"No more than a treatise of science is this work, designed to bid the reader to that table of entertainment the art of English prose—a pure style, but somewhat prodigal, adorns his argument with a cadence, a group of beautiful words as it were to alight and in time musical and pictorial, the vital, just and brilliant phrase that afterwards took the nation."

From **Kingston-on-Thames** comes No. 4 of *Our New Books*. It contains a melancholy note on the sale of the magazine: "500 copies of each number have been printed, and even those are not exhausted!" This neglect the magazine does not deserve, for its contents are always good. One small point, however: why not print authors consistently in black face? In biography the subject is in heavy type, the author in small caps: a clearer effect would be obtained by reversing this practice. We have also received the title-page and indices to Vol. 1 of this publication. The general index to the magazine is contained in the book subject index—a practice not to be commended.

Chorley Library Journal for September hardly contains a large enough number of entries to warrant its appearance quarterly.

Leeds Public Library Quarterly Journal for September is fairly well arranged, and the effect of the printing is good; the annotations are scarce and brief, yet sometimes unnecessary.

The Fifth Report of the **St. Bride Foundation Institute** contains nine illustrations and a facsimile of Mr. Passmore Edwards' letter donating £500 to the technical library which bears his name.

Most of the illustrations appeared in the Fourth Report ; but there are two new photographs of the lending library of special interest, since they show that section as it was before alteration, and as it is now with the mezzanine gallery. But why not print the illustrations in black instead of the present unsatisfactory tint ? There are now 15,600 volumes and 1,287 pamphlets in the general and technical libraries. The issue shows an increase of 9,161.

Acton Public Library has now 8,755 volumes in stock. The combined reference and lending daily average issue was 449 for two months—a very creditable result indeed.

The Fifth Report of the **Redruth** Library shows substantially increased issues this year, and an equally substantial reduction in the percentage of fiction issued.

The Sixth Report of the **St. Saviour**, Southwark, Public Library shows a daily average issue of 100 only. In 1895-6 this average was 185 ; since then it has decreased continually.

The **Wimbledon** and **Durban** Reports call for no special mention. **Tynemouth** Report has a laudatory paragraph on the Indicator System which is refreshing in these degenerate days.

Bootle sends a prospectus of the 1900-1901 series of free lectures to be delivered in connection with the library. Lists of books on the subjects dealt with are given in this programme. The public of Bootle is well catered for.

E. A. S.



LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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Communications for this column, which is not Editorial, should be signed, as an evidence of good faith, and marked "For Libraries and Librarians." Such signatures will not be published unless specially desired.

IN the edition of "Who's Who" for 1901, just issued by Messrs. A. & C. Black, we are pleased to find that some of our suggestions as to including certain University and Municipal Libraries have been adopted. This valuable reference book now incorporates "Men and Women of the Time," and thus forms a complete compendium of contemporary biography. There are still a considerable number of gaps in the notices of distinguished librarians, and we would direct the attention of the editor to a somewhat similar work, entitled "Who's Who in America," which gives full justice to eminent librarians like Cutter, Dewey, Dana, Crunden, Cheney, Hosmer, &c. We still miss the names of the chief librarians of Glasgow, Manchester, and other large cities, while Sion College, the Signet Library, Edinburgh, and the Guildhall Library, London, are also unrepresented. The four municipal librarians whom we have found included—Messrs. Briscoe, Brown, Madden, and Wright—seem to be recognised more on account of their literary than

their bibliographical achievements. It is satisfactory to find the name of Mr. Thomas Greenwood in a list which includes workers in the same field, like Mr. Andrew Carnegie and Mr. J. Passmore Edwards.

THE death is announced of Mr. James **MacIvor**, Barrister-at-Law, Librarian of the King's Inns Library, Dublin. Mr. MacIvor was eldest son of the late Rev. James MacIvor, D.D., F.T.C.D. He had a very distinguished college career, and while practising at the Junior Bar he achieved a considerable reputation as a lawyer of much brilliancy and skill. As a librarian, he certainly could not be surpassed either for courtesy or the immense store of knowledge that on all occasions he was ready to make so useful to those who visited the library.

THE Urban District Council of **Clacton-on-Sea** have appointed a committee to consider and report as to adopting the Public Libraries' Acts.

THE **Brighouse** Public Library Committee has decided to establish and stock a branch library for the Rastrick portion of the borough.

AT a meeting of the **Warwick** Free Library Committee on December 13th, Mr. Tom Carter was appointed librarian, at a salary of £80 a year, with residence and other privileges. Mr. Carter was a member of the Town Council, but resigned office in view of this appointment.

THE Town Council of **Chelmsford** have appointed a special committee to report as to the advisability of adopting the Public Libraries' Acts.

THE Public Libraries' Committee of the Corporation of **Dublin** have in contemplation the erection of a large central library on the vacant ground of their property on the north side of Lord Edward Street. It is stated that plans have been already prepared for the building, which will be a much larger and more important one than any existing Free Library in Dublin. In addition to the usual reading rooms and lending department, space will be provided for an extensive reference library and for the Gilbert Library, a very valuable collection recently purchased by the Corporation for the use of the citizens. A municipal museum will also form part of the projected new library in Lord Edward Street.

Greenock Free Library Committee have appointed Mr. J. M. Leighton, who is at present assistant to Mr. Hew Morrison in Edinburgh Public Library, to be the first librarian. The salary meantime is to be £150 per annum. There were eighty-two candidates.

THE proposed Bill for increasing the **Bristol** Public Library Rate from 1d. to 2d. has been postponed in the meantime at the suggestion of the Joint Libraries and Museum Committee.

THE **Bridgend** Urban District Council (Wales) will, at next meeting, vote on the question of adopting the Public Libraries' Acts. The Library Rate would produce about £80 per annum.

THE Worcestershire County Council has been asked to sanction the proposal of the Worcester City Council to restrict the expenditure of the **Worcester** Public Library Committee to sums not exceeding £10. The Chairman of the County Council spoke strongly against the proposed restriction, and the matter has been referred to the Technical Instruction Committee.

AN experimental course of lectures has been arranged in connection with the **Chorley** Public Library. The first lecture was given on November 2nd, by Mr. W. G. Collingwood, M.A., the biographer and friend of Ruskin, on "A Tour Abroad with Ruskin," illustrated with lantern views. It was a great success, the hall being crowded. The second lecture was delivered on December 17th by Lord Balcarras, M.P., on "Public Libraries at Home and Abroad." The Town Council has granted the free use of the Town Hall Assembly Room. The librarian of Chorley (Mr. Edward McKnight) has recently lectured for local societies on "Old Chorley" and "Myles Standish; The Puritan Captain."

COL. R. SMITH, one of the Local Government Board's inspectors, has held an enquiry at the Town Hall, **Worksop**, as to the Urban Council's application for sanction to borrow £2,600 for the purposes of a Public Library and technical school. The Clerk (Mr. G. H. Featherston) explained the details of the scheme, and the plans were presented by the architect (Mr. J. Allsopp). The apportionment was £1,800 for the free library, which would be covered by a rate of 1d. in the pound, and £800 for the technical school. No objection was raised to the Council's proposal.

A VALUABLE collection of Welsh books and manuscripts has been presented by Mr. William Scott to the **Cardiff** Public Libraries. Mr. Scott first began collecting books and MSS. relating to Wales a few years ago. His special aim was to purchase such things as were not already in the free library collection, and this aim he has steadfastly kept in view until he has brought together a total of fifty-six MSS. and 2,013 printed items. The printed books comprise many volumes of very great interest and value, some of them unique.

THE Library Committee of the **Darwen** Corporation, have sent a copy of the following letter to all the head teachers in the town:—"With a view to further popularising and increasing the usefulness of our Public Library as an educational institution, the committee propose to invite the elder scholars in your school to visit this library, and explain to them what it contains, and how they might best make use of it. The scheme has been laid before Mr. Brewer, H.M.I.S., who, in a letter we received from him, says: 'I think your plan is an excellent one. I shall be ready to accept such visits as part of the school work, and to allow attendances to count, as if made at the schools themselves.' Our librarian, Mr. Rae, will wait upon you in a few days, when full details of our scheme will be laid before you."

LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE Second Monthly Meeting of the Session was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, December 10th, 1900. Mr. H. R. Tedder occupied the chair, and there was an attendance of about thirty members. Mr. L. Stanley Jast, Librarian of the Croydon Public Libraries, read a paper, entitled "Newsrooms: are they desirable?" The author summed up the advantages and disadvantages of newsrooms in general, and commented on the remarks of Sir W. H. Bailey on this subject at Bristol, in September last. The discussion was very full, and was taken part in by Messrs. Foskett, Quinn, Inkster, Peddie, Doubleday, Taylor, Chennell, James, Soaper, Tedder, and others. Practically every aspect of the question was handled by the various speakers, from the value of reviews, to the comparative cost of newspapers and books. The general feeling of the speakers seemed to be in favour of some kind of limitation being placed upon the supply of newspapers and the cost of maintaining newsrooms, although, Mr. Jast in his reply, indicated that he was personally in favour of the root and branch abolition of this department. A resolution, moved by Mr. R. A. Peddie, to request the council to consider and report on the possibility of compiling a General Catalogue of English Literature to 1640, was carried. It was announced that the January meeting of the Association would be held at the Rylands Library, Manchester.

SOCIETY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIANS.

A Meeting of this Society was held at the Bishopsgate Institute, on Wednesday, December 5th, at 7.30 p.m., when Mr. Bridle (East Ham), read a paper entitled "The Essence of Cobbett's Grammar and Advice."

THE PSEUDONYMS.

THE October and November meetings of this organisation were devoted to the discussion of "Co-operation among the Younger Librarians," and the subject was thoroughly thrashed out from every point of view by a large number of members. An adjourned discussion, such as this, possesses the enormous advantage of enabling speakers to reconsider their previous remarks, to re-state them in a more effective manner, and even to reverse their arguments and conclusions. Without admitting that such was the case on this occasion, a very full debate on an interesting and inexhaustable topic was obtained. The principal conclusion arrived at was that existing

agencies for the promotion of professional knowledge and *esprit de corps* were somewhat lacking in efficiency, mainly because they cultivated the more showy and inane sides of their functions, to the practical exclusion of educational and technical work. In particular, the senior Association was mentioned as an instance of an important body, established for the purpose of improving librarianship and everything connected with it, which had drifted from the sphere of practical usefulness into one little calculated to enhance its value, either in the eyes of the public or its members. This aspect of the question was keenly debated, and it was generally felt that an organisation which neglected its duty in providing attractions in the form of discussions on the technical subjects specified in its constitution, could not hope to escape from criticism at the instance of the more serious members, who refused to be led away into that kind of social exercise which ultimately brings disaster. Various proposals were made for remedying the existing state of affairs in English librarianship, and the suggestion most favourably received seemed to be one in support of abolishing oratory and full-dress debates, in favour of something more akin to the ordinary committee meeting, with its comparative informality and freedom from display.

The December meeting was held at the usual rendezvous, and presided over by the Professor, who introduced the subject of "Library Statistics," as follows:—

"To open a discussion on library statistics I propose reading to you a few paragraphs taken from library reports, and quoting some figures taken either from reports or Greenwood's 'Library Year-book.'

"The librarian of one library in his report says: 'In analysing the percentage of classes of books issued, although the fiction section comes to 78.47 of the total, yet I am pleased to point out that the issue of the other classes comes to 21.53, which is a larger average than the majority of Public Libraries.'

"Well, I have no objection to this librarian telling his committee that if you take 3 from 4, 1 remains: it may be that like Humpty Dumpty, when Alice told him that if you take one day from 365, 364 remained, they prefer to see it done on paper, but I do object to the comparison with other libraries. On looking at the figures given in the tables, I found that the total number of books issued to a population of 100,000 was 56,389, and of these 4,926 only were works other than fiction and juvenile books. I do think that a librarian with such a small issue (half a book per head of population) should refrain from comparing any of his work with that done at other libraries.

"The report of another library for a recent year contains the following amusing paragraph: 'When one considers that, during the three years the library has been open, 333,946 books have been circulated among the inhabitants of this great parish, one is almost led to ask how they managed to exist before the advent of a library. This question becomes more pertinent when it is remembered that of this enormous issue nearly 100,000 books have been purely non-fictional works, many of them books of the most profound nature, the fruits of

great industry, learning, and research, which have been written and directed by teachers of no ordinary talent, but by some of the most eminent thinkers both of the present and of the past ; whose works cover wide fields of investigation, reproducing and illustrating the recondite, profound, and less explored paths of wisdom. Such books must of necessity stimulate the intellect, purify the taste, and altogether brighten and elevate the minds of those who read them.'

"At another place they have a remarkable librarian. The secretary in his report states 'Questions arise in every household, which might be solved by consulting competent authorities. Here (at the library), such authorities are to be found, with a willing and patient librarian, always glad to give help which would lead to elucidation of dates, facts, fables, places, prejudices, legends, stories—ancient or modern. The librarian can do much more, for he reads the reader, and delights to study his or her wants. He knows every book in stock, its binding, size, and contents, he has an intimate acquaintance with the style and merits of every author ; and it is his greatest pleasure to convey this information to every enquiring mind.

"Some very large reference library issues are quoted in Greenwood's Year-book. For instance, a Lancashire library reports that with a staff of three assistants, 133,830 books are issued from the lending department, and 79,160 from the reference department. You will find if you look through the reports of libraries with large reference issues that the chief sections from which the issues are made are Science and Periodicals. There is only one exception to this, and there the largest issue is stated to be Political books, but that library need not count, as I believe its classification to be the queerest in the kingdom. The explanation of the large science and periodical issues is this :—All papers other than newspapers are kept in the lending library, and are issued only on demand. The *Builder* and *Engineer* and kindred papers are counted as science in the issues, and every paper the assistant is unable to class is counted as a periodical when issued.

The report of one librarian to the committee gives this table :—

Borrowers' tickets, previously issued	... 59,768
Issued since the publication of the last report	2,387

62,155

"When what is supposed to be the same information is supplied for the consumption of librarians the truth is told. In 'Greenwood,' the number of borrowers at this place is stated to be 2,500.

"A Scottish city is said to have 60,715 borrowers to a population of 263,000. Another town claims 22,519 borrowers with an issue of 268,527, and a northern town returns 19,000 borrowers, who take 167,667 books only in a year. The smaller libraries are greater sinners in this respect than the larger ones. I do not think it necessary to give figures relating to them, but I think the librarians will have considerable difficulty in a few years' time in convincing their committees that it is possible to have more borrowers than the population

possessed by the towns, even if the librarians show it can be done on paper."

I suggest that the discussion should be upon the following points :

- 1.—What steps can be taken to obtain uniformity for the purpose of comparison in reports of the percentage of fiction issued.—Some libraries state their fiction issue to be 30 per cent., but, of course, they do not include juvenile works.
- 2.—In the reference library issues. It is important to know whether books and papers are counted, or books only, and how many of each, if both.
- 3.—Borrowers' tickets. The time the tickets remain in force should be stated.

This paper drew forth a remarkable series of revelations and statements which had the effect of showing that no reliance whatever could be placed upon the statistics issued by many Public Libraries, and that comparisons of results, obtained in so many different ways, under so many varying conditions, and subject to so many qualifications, should never be published without an explanation of the data on which they are based.

1. Library statistics should be published for the information of local authorities and interested ratepayers only, and not scattered broadcast among the newspapers of the country. It is unfortunately true that a large number of library reports are written for the purpose of attracting press notice, or dazzling other librarians and their committees.
2. So long as library classification remains in its present chaotic state in England, it will be impossible to obtain returns of issues which can be used for comparison of work, without gross unfairness.
3. Comparisons are odious and unnecessary in any case, and are simply used for the purpose of glorifying some particular library at the expense of all others. The true function of comparison is its use, privately and confidentially, as a lever for obtaining increases of salary, or rebutting the hasty statements of officious committee-men.
4. Some librarians obtain splendid results by counting a volume of pamphlets containing fifty separate items as fifty, instead of simply recording the one specially required. Of course, the reader *may* look at the others, or turn them over—but, at any rate, it is a legal form of delivery note !
5. Another splendid method is to count the separate fasciculi in the bound volume of a magazine ; and even better, because less liable to challenge, to issue the separate parts of current newspapers and magazines on slips to every applicant. By this means a number of *Punch* may tot. up to fifty in a single day, and help to swell Miscellaneous, Fine Art, Theology, or whichever class it is rated to.
6. Every reference library should contain complete sets of the *Illustrated London News*, *Punch*, *Graphic*, *Black and White*, *Sketch*, *Tit-Bits*, &c. It is remarkable how the issue of these works increases the annual totals of the various classes in which they are included.

7. It is difficult to arrive at accurate figures of the stock of various Public Libraries. Some count pamphlets as volumes, others do not, while many reckon duplicate books and surplus stock not actually in circulation.

8. Many librarians assert that novels are read much more rapidly than books in other classes of literature. This is only partly true. A Pseudonym made a close investigation of this question with the following results :—

Class.	Average number of days books kept out by readers.
Theology	15.25
Music	10.65
Science	10.18
Miscellaneous	10.12
Law	10.3
History	9.5
Magazines	9.2
Fiction	8.8
Biography	8.4
Juvenile	6.5
Poetry	6.3

This proves that imaginative literature is read more quickly than matter-of-fact books, though it is difficult to understand the comparatively short time spent in the reading of Biography. The average time books are kept in this particular library is 9.5 days.

9. The plan of numbering borrowers continuously is very apt to cause confusion, and it is possible to show more borrowers than population if proper means are not adopted to cancel dead tickets.

10. The only accurate plan of counting issues of any kind is to use some form of application slips which can be produced as vouchers. The day-sheet used in some libraries, on which issues are recorded by means of pencil strokes, is a fertile source of error and mis-representation.

11. Open access libraries, both reference and lending, suffer greatly in comparisons with other libraries managed on different lines because of the vast amount of unrecorded reading and consultation which takes place in them.

12. The efforts of the Library Association and American Library Association to secure uniformity of practice in the compilation of statistics have not been crowned with much success. It is difficult to suggest a common basis which would be satisfactory all round, as the variations of practice are so many. From the point of view of the general public, it may be regarded as certain that excess of statistics is a mistake. Pages of elaborate tables showing all kinds of issues by days, months, classes, branches, &c., &c., are a useless and costly fad, which should be discontinued at once. The value is inconsiderable, even when the information is fresh: it becomes absolutely useless when stale.

The moral of all this to librarians appears to be: If you keep statistics of your work, keep them to yourselves.

MONTHLY LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

SELECTED, CLASSIFIED, CATALOGUED & ANNOTATED
FOR THE USE OF LIBRARIANS & BOOK-BUYERS.

Objects—To provide a list of non-fictional books, as published, for the use of Librarians and Book-buyers generally, arranged so as to serve as a continuous catalogue of new books; an aid to exact classification and annotation; and a select list of new books proposed to be purchased. Novels, school books, ordinary reprints and strictly official publications will not be included in the meantime.

Classification.—The books are classified according to the *Adjustable* System (English) and *Decimal* System (American), the marks of the former appearing at the left, and the latter at the right side of entries, in bold type at the foot of the notes.

Annotations.—Notes are added in every case where necessary, to give information as to the scope and contents of the books. Prices and publishers' names, with other particulars, are also given. The notes are descriptive and not critical.

Exhibition of Books.—The books will remain on exhibition at the rooms of the *Library Supply Co.*, 181, *Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.*, for two months from the date of the "LIBRARY WORLD" in which they are described. Librarians or book-buyers are at liberty to call and examine these books at the above address.

Method of Use.—The lists as published in the "LIBRARY WORLD," may be used as suggestions of new books for library committees, and as aids to classification and cataloguing. They may also be obtained in a separate form, printed on sheets of thin paper, on one side only, suitable for mounting on cards, guard books, or slip books, to form catalogues of accessions. It is only necessary, when these slips are mounted, to mark out the classification number not required, and add the accession number of the library at any place thought best, to have a fairly perfect printed catalogue. If several copies of these sheet lists are procured, a subject catalogue can easily be compiled by writing the subject word in bold letters at the top of the entry at any point considered suitable. The following specimen entry shows how this can be done:—

Antarctic Regions.

6594.

Fricker, Karl. The Antarctic Regions. *ill. maps.* xii + 292 pp.
1900. Sonnenschein, 7s. 6d.

History of South Polar exploration and discovery from the earliest to the present time. Surface and geological structure; climate; ice; fauna and flora. List of books, maps, etc.

F1354

999

The original printed entry, plus the accession number, will serve for the author entry, while the class heading provided will be a guide to the arrangement, if it is proposed to keep the catalogue in classified form. It is also a very useful thing to paste one of these descriptive notes in the book itself as a guide to the reader. The subscription price of these slips is—for one complete copy of twelve sets 4s. per annum; two copies 6s.; three copies 8s.; four copies 10s.

Abbreviations.—Col. = coloured; Fo. = folio; Ill. = illustrated; N.D. = no date of publication; Pp. = pages; Port. = portrait. When no place of publication is given, London is to be understood.

VOL. III., No. 34, April, 1901.

A—SCIENCES.

Huxley, T. H. *Scientific Memoirs*. Ed. by Prof. Michael Foster and Prof. E. R. Lankester. V. 3. *ill. port. maps.* xii + 622 pp. 1901. Macmillan, 30s. *net.*

*A

q508

British Astronomical Association. *The Total Solar Eclipse, 1900: Report of the Expeditions organised by the B.A.A.* Ed. by E. W. Maunder. xii + 230 pp. *ill.* 1901. *Knowledge* office, 5s. **A310** **523.7**

B—USEFUL ARTS.

Blake, John. *How sailors fight: an account of the organisation of the British fleet in peace and war, with some tactical illustrations of the behaviour of modern fighting ships in action.* With an introduction by Captain the Hon. Hedworth Lambton. *ill.* 259 pp. 1901. Grant Richards, 6s.

B152**359**

Byrn, Edward W. *Progress of invention in the nineteenth century.* *ill.* viii + 476 pp. New York. 1900. Munn & Co., 12s. 6d. *net.*

Descriptions, profusely illustrated, of inventions connected with electricity, steam, printing, type-writing, sewing machine, reaping machines, india-rubber, chemistry, optics, photography, X rays, civil engineering, metal and wood working, firearms, textiles, liquid air, &c. American point of view.

B8**608**

Sutherland, George. *Twentieth century inventions: a forecast.* xvi + 286 pp. 1901. Longmans, 4s. 6d. *net.*

An attempt to show what inventions are likely to be developed in the future from the existing state of electricity, railways, ships, agriculture, mining, house-keeping, warfare, music, art and news, &c.

B8**608****C—FINE AND RECREATIVE ARTS.**

Apthorp, Wm. F. *The Opera, past and present: an historical sketch.* *ports.* xviii + 238 pp. 1901. Murray, 5s. *net.*

From the time of Monteverde (1607) to that of Wagner and his followers.

C262**782**

Brown, Jas. Duff, *ed.* *Characteristic songs and dances of all nations, with historical notes and a bibliography.* The music arranged for the pianoforte by Alfred Moffat. vi + 276 pp. 1901.

Bayley & Ferguson; paper 3s. 6d., cloth 4s. 6d.

Collection of the national anthems of the world, with specimens of folk-music and dances of civilised and savage nations.

C478**784.3**

- Leiningen-Westerburg**, Karl E., Count zu. German book-plates: an illustrated handbook of German and Austrian *exlibris*. Trans. by G. R. Dennis. *ill.* xx + 531 pp. 1901.
Bell & Sons, 12s. 6d. *net*.

Collector's manual of the history and varieties of heraldic and pictorial book labels.

C172

097

- McIntyre**, John H. A. Text-book of sciography. *diagrams.* 51 pp. 1901.
Blackie, 3s. 6d.

Art of presenting to the eye the shadows of geometrical forms by means of orthographic projection.

C64

515.63

- Rogers**, W. S. A Book of the poster. Illustrated with examples of the work of the principal poster artists of the world. *ill.* (some *col.*) xii + 146 pp. 1901.
Greening & Co., 7s. 6d. *net*.

Description and hints on collecting pictorial commercial wall advertisements or posters, designed by artists of eminence.

C178

740

- Sturgis**, Russell, *and others.* A Dictionary of Architecture and building: biographical, historical, and descriptive. v. 1, A—E. *ill., plans.* x + 471 pp. 1901.
Macmillan, 25s.

Deals with all countries, but written largely from an American standpoint.

*C188

q720

D—SOCIAL SCIENCE.

- Carnegie**, Andrew. The Gospel of wealth, and other timely essays. xxiv + 305 pp. 1901.
Warne, 8s. 6d. *net*.

Autobiographical introduction, and essays on wealth, advantages of poverty, trusts, labour questions, distant possessions, America *versus* imperialism, democracy in England, Home Rule in America. Does America hate England? Imperial federation.

D100

330.1

- Hobson**, J. A. The Social problem. Life and work. xii + 295 pp. 1901.
Nisbet & Co., 7s. 6d. *net*.

"Introduction to the science and art of social progress"—Work, political economy, rights of man, property, society, land, socialism, population, industrial life.

D8

301

E—PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION.

Whittaker, Thomas. The Neo-Platonists : a study in the history of Hellenism. xiv + 231 pp. 1901. *Camb. Univ. Press*, 7s. 6d.

"The Neo-Platonic thought is, metaphysically, the maturest thought that the European world has seen. Our science, indeed, is more developed; and so also, with regard to some special problems, is our theory of knowledge. On the other hand, the modern time has nothing to show comparable to a continuous quest of truth about reality during a period of intellectual liberty that lasted for a thousand years." (p. 210.)

E14**186****F—HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY.**

Allen, Roland. The Siege of the Peking Legations. *maps, plans.* xii + 300 pp. 1901. *Smith, Elder*, 7s. 6d.

Diary of a besieged resident in Peking during the Boxer rising, the siege, and the relief by the allied troops, with notes on the daily life in the Legations.

F468**951**

Barnard, Lady Anne. South Africa a century ago. Letters written from the Cape of Good Hope (1797-1801). Ed., with memoir and brief notes, by W. H. Wilkins. *port.* x + 316 pp. 1901. *Smith, Elder*, 7s. 6d.

Descriptions of the life, government, and policy of the Cape Dutch and natives, by the author of "Auld Robin Gray," who was wife of the secretary to the first Governor of Cape Colony.

Bigham, Clive. A Year in China, 1899-1900. *ill., maps.* xii + 234 pp. 1901. *Macmillan*, 8s. 6d. *net.*

Travels in Northern China and Korea, with an account of the Boxer rising, Seymour's expedition for the relief of the Peking Legations, and the Russian railway across Asia.

F470**951**

Boulton, W. B. The Amusements of Old London : survey of the sports and pastimes, tea gardens and parks, playhouses, &c., from the seventeenth to the beginning of the nineteenth century. 2 v. 12 col. *ill.* xxix + 535 pp. 1901. *Nimmo*, 30s. *net.*

Bull and bear baiting, tea gardens, the masked assembly, the play tables, cock-fighting, the play, Vauxhall Gardens, fairs, the prize-ring, promenading in the parks, clubs and coffee-houses, &c. The illustrations are hand-coloured reproductions of drawings by contemporary artists, including Hogarth, Rowlandson, and Alken.

F742**790**

George, H. B. The Relations of geography and history. *maps.* viii + 296 pp. Oxford. 1901. *Clarendon Press*, 4s. 6d.

Traces the influence of geographical or physical features upon the course of history, chiefly in Europe and America.

F**900 + 910**

Palmer, Francis H. E. Russian life in town and country. *ill.* xii + 271 pp. 1901. Newnes, 3s. 6d. *net.*

Country life, the peasantry, rural self-government, Jewish life, Church and clergy, life in winter, town society, urban working classes, education and the army.

F1166

947

Ralph, Julian. War's brighter side. The story of *The Friend* newspaper edited by correspondents with Lord Roberts's forces, March-April, 1900. *ill.*, xvi + 421 pp. 1901. Pearson, 6s.

The history of the newspaper established at Bloemfontein during the Boer War, with illustrative extracts, copies of proclamations, &c.

F166

968

Sternberg, Count. My experiences of the Boer War. Trans., with an introduction, by Lieut.-col. G. F. R. Henderson. xliv + 268 pp. 1901. Longmans, 5s. *net.*

Observations of an Austrian soldier on the Boer side from Magersfontein to Paardeberg, with reflections on the military aspects of the war.

F166

968

G—BIOGRAPHY AND CORRESPONDENCE.

Dreyfus, Alfred. Five years of my life. Trans. by James Mortimer. *ports.*, *ill.* x + 345 pp. 1901. Newnes, 6s. *net.*

Account of the life of Dreyfus, the French military officer, accused of betraying army secrets, from his first trial and sentence to imprisonment on Devil's Isle, 1894, to the fresh trial at Rennes, 1899. Chiefly letters to and from his wife.

G88

923.5

Hopkins, Tighe. The Man in the iron mask. *ill.* xvi + 368 pp. 1901. Hurst & Blackett, 7s. 6d. *net.*

History of the mysterious episode in French history of the seventeenth century, connected with the imprisonment of a man whose identity was carefully hidden and his features covered by means of an iron mask. The author identifies the prisoner with Count Mattioli, a political offender against the rule of Louis XIV.

G88

923.2

Howells, W. D. Literary friends and acquaintance: a personal retrospect of American authorship. *ports.*, *ill.* x + 288 pp. New York. 1901. Harper, 10s. 6d. *net.*

Autobiographical and critical notes on American authors and their homes. Longfellow, Bayard Taylor, J. T. Fields, N. Hawthorne, Thoreau, Emerson Artemus Ward, Stedman, Whitman, Motley, Lowell, O. W. Holmes, &c.

G84

928

Weale, W. H. J. Hans Memlinc. *ill.* 1901. *Great Masters in Painting and Sculpture.* Bell, 5s. net.

The author says of Memlinc: "As compared with the other members of the Netherlandish school, he is the most poetical and the most musical . . . and many of the subjects he represented have never been so delicately and delightfully expressed by any other painter, with the exception, perhaps, of Fra Angelico." Has a chronological bibliography of writings on Memlinc (with best works starred), and a catalogue of his works arranged according to their disposition.

G88

759.9

H—LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.

Furnivall, F. J. An English Miscellany: presented to Dr. Furnivall in honour of his seventy-fifth birthday (February 4th, 1901). *ill.*, 1 *port. facsimile.* x + 500 pp. 1901. Clarendon Press, 21s.

Various contributors. Forty-nine essays, mainly addressed to the advanced philologist and student of Early English. Includes a bibliography of Dr. Furnivall.

H354

828

Mathew, E. J. A History of English literature. 534 pp. 1901. Macmillan, 4s. 6d.

From the earliest times to the reign of Victoria. Characteristics of principal authors, with specimens.

H354

820.9

Moulton, C. W., ed. Library of Literary criticism of English and American authors. V. 1, 680-1638. 768 pp. *port.* 1901. Moulton Pub. Co., New York, £8 6s. 8d.

"Each author is treated chronologically—in most cases beginning with contemporary criticisms, and ending with some living authority."—*Pref.* Brief biographical notes precede the criticisms.

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* * * *The publication of this Monthly List will be discontinued on and after this date. If it should be decided to revive the list again, due notice will be given.*



LIBRARY STATISTICS.

By T. E. MAW, *Librarian, Public Library. King's Lynn.*

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MRS. — receives neither honourable nor other mention in annual reports, yet she cannot be unknown to every librarian. The assistant at the issue desk could probably give a very interesting account of her habits and instincts, of which he must perforce make a daily study. In a temple of literature issuing 100,000 volumes annually there will probably be twenty of her class, and each morning ten at least of "the old familiar faces" may be seen, apparently worshipping mystic, symbolic figures for awhile, and then offering and receiving gifts from the messenger of their goddess. From remarks passed by these devotees, we gather that they worship not Truth, but Fiction. Their saints are Miss Braddon, Mrs. Wood, Marie Corelli, and others. Many of their saints' good works are "not in," "read long ago," &c. Mrs. —'s reading may produce no apparent effect upon herself, but it has such an influence upon the tabulated results of Public Library work that it is worth while giving the matter some attention. It is most unfortunate that those judging the influence of a Public Library upon a community should rely solely upon the statistics usually given in annual reports. *Pro* and *con* may take the same statistics, and by most flawless logic each will prove the arguments of the other to be absurd, and in many cases it is done quite conscientiously; the conclusion arrived at quite depending upon the point of view. In this library issuing 100,000 volumes a year the percentage of fiction is, let us say, 60. Mrs. — comes at least every other day for a novel, and, as we may safely multiply Mrs. — by 20, we find she borrows 3,000 novels a year, or 3 per cent. Then, again, we never consider the many novels taken away and brought back next day because they were "not nice." If there are 20 daily, we would now gladden the heart of the librarian by showing the percentage of fiction borrowed from his library to be 51, instead of 60. Should the issue in the class containing magazines and reviews be counted with fiction or not, certainly a large assortment of attractive magazines falsifies the record if not placed amongst fiction. Think of a classification which places in the same column—as is very frequent—the *Strand Magazine* and Mathew Arnold's "Essays"! Juvenile literature is surely fiction, and yet many reports totally ignore this fact, although it often amounts to 25 per cent. of the issues. For example, I find in the thirtieth Annual Report of the Borough of Tynemouth that the issue of fiction is 53 per cent. of a total issue of 85,625; but, if we take into account the 16,121 juvenile literature and 15,531 magazines and reviews, we will find the percentage of Fiction to have jumped up to 90!

Are three-volume novels counted as one issue or as three? The same question may be asked as to non-fictional works, for, if a five-volume edition of "Boswell's Johnson" is counted as five issues in

biography, the library counting it as one issue or issuing a one-volume edition compares unfavourably at the end of the year. The man who borrows a six-volume edition of Goldsmith's "Animated Nature" for a day, merely to see if Goldsmith really made the strange statements placed to his credit, is as welcome to the ardent statistician as the reader who takes three months to get through Gibbon's "Rome," borrowing one volume at a time. As an experiment, it might be worth while dividing fiction into three classes—*Good*, *Bad*, and *Indifferent*—and giving the issues and stock in each class. The adverse critics would not then turn our own tables upon us, if we could prove that the fiction provided and issued was nearly all in Class G (Good), which was composed of the works of Dickens, Eliot, Hardy, Meredith, Thackeray, Scott, and such honoured names; and not Corelli, Braddon, Wood, and worse.

The "table of issues of notable and popular books" in the Belfast report is interesting, but the system of issuing some works in more than one volume as one work, and separating others, is rather puzzling. For instance, Ruskin's "Stones of Venice" in three volumes has been issued complete twenty-four times, and E. B. Browning's poems in five volumes has been issued, one volume at a time, thirteen times. Surely it is easier to read the whole of E. B. B. in fourteen days than one volume of the "Stones of Venice." This might mean that eight readers borrowed the "Stones of Venice" in order to read it thoroughly, and three readers took one volume of E. B. B. at a time in order to read the lot. The high quality of the reading in Belfast is to the superficial observer in strong contrast to the high percentage of fiction issued. Some little time ago the librarians of representative Public Libraries kindly furnished me with particulars as to the issue of certain books in twelve months. An extract from the Aberdeen return may be of interest:—

LEWES. History of Philosophy	9	SPENCER. First Principles	12
CARLYLE. Sartor Resartus	20	RUSKIN. Crown of Wild Olive	24
Richard Feverel	23	Adam Bede	26
Vanity Fair	23	Ivanhoe	26

(Record of issues of one copy of each.)

After all, if it were possible to arrive at some uniform statistical method, our efforts would be in vain, for it is as impossible to show in figures the moral value of the literature issued as it would be to show the statistical value of pure air and good food. It is only the soulless statistician who would rejoice to see his borrowers lower the issue of the best fiction 20 per cent. by reading inflated biographies of non-entities "in two vols. 8vo."

Someone may say it is unnecessary to warn us against taking statistics literally, as no one reads library reports; but it is as well to be prepared to meet the indignant ratepayer, who, like the poor, is always with us, and who protests against paying a penny rate in order that a dépôt for novels may exist in the town under the guise of an educational institution.

LIBRARY JOURNALS, CATALOGUES, etc.

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WE have received No. 2. (April), V I., new series, of the *Quarterly Record and Guide for Readers* (Willesden Green Public Library)—No. 1 of which, by the way, we do not remember noticing. The contents are strictly germane to the library's work, consisting as they do of a few library notes, a classified list of additions, and a reading list on gardening. A few books are annotated, but some which appear to call for notes are not so treated, e.g., Lefèvre's "Race and Language." All the entries are full enough, and the prose fiction is entered under title as well as author.

The *Wigan Quarterly Record* is an excellent publication. The January-March number contains some notes, the usual lists of additions, an essay on a Wigan poet, John Critchley Prince, and a list on the Palaeolithic and Neolithic Ages of English History. This last is the beginning of a series of Student's Lists, which will elucidate minutely certain periods in our history. If succeeding lists are as good as the first the Wigan Library will be of material assistance to its students. The entries in the lists of additions are clear enough, but amenable, perhaps, to a slightly better arrangement. The annotations are not numerous nor long, but good; it is the intention of the editors, it would seem, to take them as far as possible from the prefaces of books—a practice with which we are wholly in accord. On the whole this *Record* is a credit to Wigan and to Public Library literature.

We make the following excerpt from the Report of the Librarian of Congress, Washington, 1900:—

"The position at the head of the print division, vacant then, I hold vacant still, in the hope that the salary may be made commensurate with the qualifications needed. With the same hope I refrain from attempting to fill, at the present salary of 1,500 dols., the position at the head of the manuscript division, made vacant by the resignation of Dr Herbert Friedenwald, on September 1 of the present year. This also is one of the eight divisions in the Library for the conduct of which, in my judgment, a thoroughly adequate man cannot be secured for less than 3,000 dols."

We wonder whether the same policy would answer in many English libraries. The following note referring to the work of the bibliographical division is interesting:—

"The Philippine Commission, the Samoan Commission, and the Statistical Division of the Census were advised in regard to works upon the subjects of their investigations. The Assistant Secretary of War's office was furnished, by request, with a list of French treatises upon colonies best adapted for translation. In addition, book lists have been prepared, including a grand total of 5,092 titles."

This division seems thoroughly well organized ; at any rate it gets through an immense amount of work. It is impossible to overrate the importance of issuing good bibliographies on timely subjects, and it would be well if more attention were paid to the matter on this side of the Atlantic.

A bibliography from **Yale** University Library. It is entitled, *Some General Bibliographical Works of Value to the Student of English*, and is compiled by our friend Mr. Andrew Keogh, late of Newcastle-upon-Tyne Public Libraries. The work has been well done.

From **Birmingham** comes No. 1 of the *Occasional Lists*, on China. This list comprises the books, pamphlets, parliamentary reports, and magazine articles contained in all the Birmingham Libraries. A few very brief annotations are to be found here and there in the book-list, which contains every important work on the subject. The magazine article list is very complete, consisting of ten large octavo pages of print, too small for the proof corrector to contemplate with equanimity.

The **Nottingham Library Bulletin** for April contains an account of the opening of the Carlton Road Reading Rooms, on February 25th last, "Queen Victoria" and "Telegraphy and Telephony" lists, in addition to the usual matter. There are also four portraits : the Mayor, the Sheriff, the Chairman of the Committee, and Mr. Briscoe, the City Librarian.

The **Peterborough Bulletin** (half-yearly) for April is not quite up to its usual standard, which has been high hitherto. The "*Annotated List of Additions to the Lending Library*" is, perhaps, correctly so called, although the adjective applies to the fiction rather than to the non-fiction entries, hardly one quarter of which have notes. The special Reading Lists, "British Commerce," and "Mediæval England, 1215-1514," are very helpful. We here take the opportunity of replying to Mr. Willcock's article in the April number of this journal, in which he makes some remarks on our comments on his "Class-List of History," &c. We gave it as our opinion that "Bishop, N.H. Voyage of the Paper Canoe," was preferable to "Bishop, N.H. G. (=Geography) United States." Mr. Willcock regards the latter as "more explanative . . . The voyage of the paper canoe may be up the Thames, or on the Broads, for all the title conveys. Quite true. But the author index to a class catalogue is not intended to be explanative ; all explanation and description of the subject and scope of a book should be made in the classified body of the catalogue. The author index is an arrangement alphabetically under author of all the books scattered in the class-list ; the reader consults it simply to be directed to the full entry of a particular book by a certain author. Assuming, for the sake of argument, that "Voyage of the Paper Canoe" was written by Mrs. Bishop, instead of N. H. Bishop, and that "G. United States, 49" in the following is the reference to this book :—

Bishop, Mrs. G. Japan, 28 ; G. Persia, 31 ; G. Turkey-in-Asia, 32 ; G. United States, 49 ; G. Polynesia, 56.

The voyage may be up the Thames or on the Broads, true, but it also may be in Japan, Persia, or Polynesia. The reader, therefore, is not guided to the book he wants by these abbreviations; but must refer in turn to four pages before he finds that G. United States = "Voyage of the Paper Canoe." Or, suppose that "Bishop, N. H. G. United States" is the only entry under that name, as is the case in Mr. Willcock's class-list; is it not quite possible that a reader seeking for Bishop's "Voyage of the Paper Canoe" will be entirely misled by the cryptographical "G. United States" (even if he knows that G. = Geography), and assume that the book is not in the library? Our contention is that Mr. Willcock has not discovered in "G. United States," or similar forms a good *via media*¹ between bare numbers as "Bishop, 28, 31, 32, 49, 56," and "Bishop, 'Voyage of the Paper Canoe,'" &c.

Space does not permit us to deal with the many interesting points in the following, which we here acknowledge with many thanks:—*Reports*: Bristol Museum and Reference Library, Wigan, Cork, Hove, Limehouse, Yale University, Belfast. *Journals*: Perth Library and Museum Record, Manchester Quarterly Record, Bootle Free Library, Museum, and Technical School Journal, The Library Assistant, Croydon "Reader's Index."

From Accrington comes a *Handbook for Readers together with a Guide to the Classification*, which gives an account of the Open-Access System, Notes for Readers, and Tables of the Classification. The classification adopted is the "Adjustable," but so inverted and altered as to render useless the Index to that system which has been prepared. Mr. Wright, the compiler, has reversed the main classes of the Adjustable system, and has split some of them, as well as amalgamated others. The sub-divisions are also altered here and there, but for what purpose we have been unable to discover. Beyond satisfying the craving for something *different* from anything else, we are unable to see the slightest advantage in thus shuffling a classification scheme. We have seen Dewey's system treated in precisely the same fashion, often with most comical results. In other respects this *Handbook* should prove very useful to the people of Accrington.

The Report of the Deichman Library, **Christiana**, which was founded in 1780, and reorganised by Mr. Haakon Nyhuus in 1898-99, gives a good account of the work and progress of this most progressive Norwegian library. There is an interesting view of the Open Access department, and a somewhat unconventional portrait of Mr. J. B. Halvorsen, one of the Committee.

¹We quote the following from Mr. Willcock's article:—"The writer has before him a classed catalogue with its author-index elaborated in this manner. Here is an analysis of its bulk:—Total number of pages 165; author-list (or index), 62 pages; subject-index, 9 pages; classified portion (excluding fiction and juvenile works [which, we presume, are also excluded in the author-list]), 55 pages." It does not strengthen a point to bring bad examples to its support. Sonnenschein's 'Best Books' (which we by no means accept as a model) has 109 pages of index matter, and 1,009 pages of classified body

The **Brentford** Public Library has issued a *Classified Catalogue of the Lending Department . . . and list of local books, prints, maps, &c., in the Reference Department*, compiled by Fred. Turner, the Librarian. This is a neat little catalogue, compiled, for the sake of economy, in classified form of eleven main classes with a brief author and subject index. There is no attempt made at scientific sub-divisions under the main classes, and some of the headings, such as Music, Natural History, England, Philology, &c., are rather jumbled. There is a good list of Brentford local books and prints, and photographs of the library building and the library committee.

Two Fiction Catalogues come from the United States which possess points of interest. One is the **Los Angeles** Public Library *List of Novels and Tales in the English Language*, second edition, which gives in one alphabet the author and title lists, and, at the end, a very complete title-index of short stories. Throughout this list are given brief annotations on both authors and works in the style of various English lists. The other catalogue comes from **Pittsburgh**, and is entitled *Graded and Annotated Catalogue of Books in the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh for the use of the City Schools*. This is a most interesting, though disappointing, list, for which the selection of books was made by a joint committee of school-teachers and the library staff of Pittsburgh. It is arranged in nine grades to suit school-children of different ages and degrees of intelligence, and each grade is divided into classes, like Nature, Geography, History, General Literature, &c., according to a cumulative plan. Every book is annotated, and its title and annotation are repeated in every grade under which it appears. This latter is a piece of unnecessary extravagance, unless each grade is issued separately; but of this there is no indication. The annotations vary in value. Some of them give a fair idea of the scope and contents of the books, others are simply fatuous. Some critical notes about "delightful tales," "fresh and breezy stories," &c., are not particularly helpful. The selection of books is on strongly American lines, and the catalogue is not a guide which English librarians are likely to follow, particularly in the departments devoted to history and science. It is extraordinary to what extent a broad-minded people like the Americans will allow their national prejudices to overcome their judgment when compiling lists of best books and works on history. They have not changed one iota since the time of Mr. Jefferson Brick, and it would be comical, were it not also pathetic, to see staid and educated American librarians gravely selecting some of the most feeble piffle ever written, to put forward as the world's literary masterpieces; not because such stuff is good and enduring, but only because it is American. A select list of authors suitable for children, which deliberately omits R. M. Ballantyne, &c., for the sake, we assume, of making room for Mrs. L. F. P. Wesselhoeft's "Torpeanuts the Tomboy," is not a particularly catholic or reliable guide, and in spite of the great parade of authority with which it is issued, it is only another example of that extraordinary spread-eagleism with which, at times, European librarians are greatly entertained by their American *confrères*.

REVIEW.

Characteristic Songs and Dances of all Nations. Edited, with historical notes and a bibliography by James Duff Brown; the music arranged for the pianoforte by Alfred Moffat. Bayley & Ferguson. 1901. 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. \times 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. vi. + 278 pp. Price 3s. 6d. in paper; 4s. 6d. in cloth.

Mr. Brown is to be congratulated on having well fulfilled his purpose, as set forth in the introduction to this book, to bring together in convenient form a series of the royal or people's songs of all the principal nationalities, also characteristic specimens of the folk-music of each country, and examples of the leading national dances. The interest and value of the work is enhanced by the addition of historical notes on the principal songs and dances, tracing both words and tunes, and by way of appendix is given a series of notes, and lists of the principal authorities for the music of every race and country. A very full index—too rare a feature in music books—makes the whole readily accessible, and is attributable to Mr. Brown's large experience in cataloguing and indexing. Within its limits, the collection is the most complete of the kind in existence, and reflects much credit on the knowledge and taste of the compilers. In these days of patriotic outbursts the book will prove of great service in Public Libraries by providing a source to which ready reference can be made for the anthem of any particular nation. Even the late South African Republic is represented by its Boer Volkslied, but its inclusion suggests the question as to why the national tunes of other absorbed nations should be omitted. For instance, those of Bavaria, Prussia, and Bohemia are not given, although certain German national tunes are published, as are also some Bohemian folk-songs. Again, the so-called national airs of Siam and Hawaii are absent, and also those of Peru and Chili. Surely, too, a specimen is obtainable of the music of Thibet? With these exceptions, however, practically every race or nation is adequately represented, and the book is of great interest, both musically and historically.

Appreciation is due to Mr. Moffat for his pianoforte arrangement, which is in sympathy with the individual character of the different tunes, and the amateur will derive pleasure no less than will the student interest, from the introduction thus afforded to the music of other nations.

We would suggest to Mr. Brown the inclusion in a future edition of the tunes omitted to which reference has been made, and those of any other minor European nationality. Perhaps the new national anthem of Federated Australia will also be available. C. S. G.



THE LIBRARY STAFF.

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THIS DEPARTMENT is conducted for the special, but not exclusive, benefit of the earnest and studious Library Assistant, who is determined to make his or her way in the profession of Librarianship. An effort will be made to cover, in a gradual and complete manner, the whole of the ground occupied by the technical side of the craft, and to enable this to be thoroughly done, brief practical notes of any kind are solicited from assistants or librarians in any sort of library. Ethical disquisitions on deportment, and disagreeable controversial notes are not wanted. Every assistant should make a point of sending at least one note annually, bearing on the daily routine work of a library. Nothing is too trivial or trite to be thoroughly discussed.

Time-Limit for Book Borrowing.

IT would be interesting to know how many of our readers agreed with Mr. Hartley when, at the conclusion of his paper on the "Time-Limit in the Loan of Books," he says, "the return on the following Saturday of about 42 per cent. of the books borrowed, proves conclusively that a great many of our readers make a weekly change of the books loaned to them, evidently finding a seven days' period quite long enough for their needs." Is it not more likely that the books are brought back to avoid the payment of the fine, which in some libraries is too large? In coming to a conclusion in the one just quoted, it would be well if we took into consideration the circumstances of the borrowers. Many who use our Public Libraries find it difficult to finish an ordinary-sized novel in a week. There are those who have only the Sunday for reading, or, rather, part of that day, all other evenings being occupied by attending to business or classes. How many borrowers could read "Robert Elsmere" or "The Master-Christian" in seven days? In asking this question we do not forget that nearly all books may be renewed. But why should borrowers be put to the trouble of renewing a book because those in authority choose a time-limit of seven days? Then, again, what librarian would renew "The Master-Christian" when nearly everyone is waiting for it? It is difficult to know how long a book should be issued for, but we venture to suggest for novels the limit should be ten days—an arrangement which would allow borrowers to have two Sundays at their book, thus enabling them to finish comfortably those novels which, like the two already mentioned, cannot be enjoyed if "skipped."

The Assistant's Memory.

"We must set down a good memory as a cardinal qualification of the librarian," says A. R. Spofford, in his "Book for all Readers." The truth of this statement will be so apparent to our readers that we consider it unnecessary to give our reasons for agreeing with it. Many of us employed in libraries know how convenient it is to the borrowers, and

labour-saving to ourselves, when we are able to go to any particular shelf for a book just asked for, without the aid of the location book. The writer, who has had a long experience in a reference library, where the issues average 1,500 volumes daily, has noted that about 50 per cent. of the books issued by the older assistants were found without the aid of the location book, resulting in the prompt delivery of the book to the borrower. Assistants would do well if they tried to cultivate a good memory. A simple mode of doing so is by giving our whole attention to the objects we see around us. By this means we soon become familiar with the stock of the library. The same in our reading: we should be careful to read material which we can make use of in our daily life, remembering that promiscuous reading is bound to result in confusion.

The Lettering of Bound Volumes.

LIBRARIANS are alive to the necessity of having a lettering scheme which they could adhere to when re-binding their books, the idea being one which the writer has considered very often, but as yet he has not hit on any scheme which gives satisfaction throughout. There is only one class of book which lends itself to a scheme such as Mr. Jast explained in the March number of the *Library World*, and that is our periodical literature. In this *we* bind each volume as soon as it is completed, so that it rests with the librarian to see that the periodical literature in his library is bound and lettered in the same style throughout. It is when we come to consider the re-binding of books belonging to science, biography, poetry, and other classes that the weaknesses of binding schemes are discovered; this is especially apparent in the scheme propounded by Mr. Jast. In his system he proposes to put the number or classification mark in the top panel, for reasons which are very good, *but* he seems to forget that books are not all the same height (although his examples are); so that it would be better, in my opinion, to place all guides for the locating of a book at a certain distance from the bottom, say 2-in. This arrangement would ensure uniformity, and help the assistant when examining the shelves, should it be an open access or closely classified library. Another change proposed by Mr. Jast which will not meet with the approval of most librarians, I am afraid, is that of placing the author above the title when the books in that class are arranged according to the author's name. My argument is that it is against the general custom—"which," as Mr. Jast says, "is the solidest argument of all." It is useless, I think, to begin lettering our re-binding in this manner until we get the publishers to recognise that by doing so they would be conforming to the "natural order" and our catalogue entries. In our libraries we have only about 25 per cent. of our books re-bound. Is it not better that the quarter should be guided by the three quarters, marking all the books with our classification signs, numbers, or author's name 2-in. from the bottom, thus obtaining uniformity as far as our library marks are concerned? I quite agree with Mr. Jast when he says Roman figures are to be avoided, as nothing is more pitiable and annoying if

we are busy than to see a junior struggling with a calculation like this—CCXLIX.—when 249 would do as well. As librarians, I am sure we are indebted to Mr. Jast for his able and suggestive paper on this subject, but I think when a scheme for the consistent lettering of our books is being considered, it would be advisable for us to adhere to the publishers' or orthodox style of lettering, and place whatever extra marks we may desire a certain distance from the bottom, and so ensure that uniformity which does so much to assist one in keeping books in their proper order in the least possible time.



LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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Communications for this column, which is not Editorial, should be signed, as an evidence of good faith, and marked "For Libraries and Librarians." Such signatures will not be published unless specially desired.

WITH this number of the *Library World*, the "Monthly List of New Books" will cease for the present. The venture has not met with the support and appreciation which it deserved, either from publishers or librarians, and it has been found necessary to abandon it in the meantime.

THE literary world has seen within recent years a number of guides to the choice of good literature, in the form of Lists of a Hundred Best Books, a Thousand Best Books, and so on, up to the huge selections for the use of booksellers, like certain well-known publishers' trade catalogues. These have all merits of their own, but they all fail in the direction of really guiding readers or purchasers to the very best. Messrs. Scott, Greenwood & Co. have made arrangements for the issue of a series of Handy Guides to the **Choice of Books** on a plan not hitherto attempted on a large scale. They propose to issue sectional catalogues for all classes of literature, the entries in which will be carefully selected by experts, provided with historical and descriptive notes, and presented with full indexes, classifications, &c., so as to make them readily available to everybody. Only the very best works will be chosen and described as the intention of the work is not bibliographical, but selective. As a companion volume there will be a Bibliography of the chief Technical Books. The best books of every age and every literature in the English language will be shown in such a way as to aid Public Library committees, booksellers, private collectors, and the general reader, in the selection of the greatest works of literature, whether imaginative, scientific, historical, or technical. The first section, dealing with Prose Fiction, will be issued in the course of this year, and will comprise practically every novel in the English language which is worth preserving, either on account of its style, plot, or other matter, together with all necessary subject-indexes, to make the book a comprehensive guide to the best fiction.

MR. John Daniel **Jones**, Librarian and Rate Collector to the Runcorn Urban District Council, died, in April, after a lingering illness. He was aged fifty-two. Mr. Jones had been librarian from the formation of the Free Library twenty years ago.

BEING of opinion that it is expedient for the more efficient management of the Council's libraries that there should be a "chief librarian," the **Bermondsey** Borough Council have appointed Mr. John Frowde (the Bermondsey librarian) to that position, and given him the general superintendence of the libraries. It is proposed to establish a branch library in the portion of the Borough as yet unprovided with libraries. This, with a branch at Rotherhithe, will give Bermondsey three libraries.

THE formal opening of the new extensions to the **Millom** Public Library took place last month, when the Rev. H. E. Campbell, of Workington, performed the opening ceremony.

AT a special meeting of **Campbeltown** Town Council, on April 22nd, Provost Mitchell read a letter from Mr. James Macallister Hall, of Killean and Tongy, who over two years ago presented the town with Free Public Library and Museum buildings, provided and endowed at a cost of about £12,000, intimating that he was prepared, with the view of putting the institution on a more satisfactory footing, to make over to the Council, as trustees, a further sum of £1,000 to be added to the existing endowment fund.

ON April 24th, Mr. G. A. **Ring**, Attorney-General, Isle of Man, lectured on "Public Libraries and Self-Culture," at the Town Hall of Douglas, in the presence of a large audience.

IN December last the **Dunblane** Town Council were informed that if the burgh adopted the Free Libraries' Act, provided a site for a library, and raised £1,000 of the £2,000 required for the building, Mr. Andrew Carnegie would contribute the other £1,000. Since then Mr. Stirling, of Kippendavie, has offered to provide a site, and there is in the hands of the present Library Association £500, which could be applied to the erection of a library. It is believed that the remaining £500 could be raised by subscription. In order to test public feeling on the subject, the Town Council have decided to take a *plébiscite* as to whether the Free Libraries' Acts should be adopted in Dunblane. Papers have been issued putting the issue before the electors.

THE Town Council of **Coatbridge** have appointed a committee to consider and report as to the advisability of adopting the Public Libraries' Act.

MR. HENRY **Ogle**, late Sub-Librarian of Hampstead Public Libraries, has been appointed Librarian of the Victoria Free Library, Ipswich.

THE Trustees of the **Boston** Free (Voluntary) Library have offered to hand over to the Town Council the land purchased in West Street and the money in hand, on an undertaking being given by them to erect a reading-room and library, and to allow the trustees the use of rooms as a Free Library until such time as the Free Library Act is adopted.

MR. F. T. **Barrett**, of the Mitchell Library, has been appointed with the title of City Librarian, the chief library officer of the City of Glasgow, to which Mr. Andrew **Carnegie** has just donated £100,000 to build branch libraries.

THE Dick Institute at **Kilmarnock** was opened on April 30th, by Mrs. Dick, wife of the donor. The style of the building, which undoubtedly forms the finest architectural feature of the town, is Italian. The front portion is two storeys in height, and the return wings are one storey, the frontage being 138-ft. in height, with a total depth of 114-ft. The leading feature of the design is the portico which forms the front entrance. The pediment terminates with a fine figure of Minerva, with a sphinx on either side, and in tympanum the Kilmarnock arms with supporters. The principal entrance is by the portico and vestibule leading to a spacious entrance hall. To the right is the reading-room, L in shape, 52-ft. by 36-ft., and adjoining is the ladies' reading-room, detached, 36-ft. by 22-ft., with separate entrance. To the left is the lending library, 52-ft. by 36-ft.; librarian's room and reference library, 36-ft. by 22-ft., each provided with a separate entrance. Immediately behind the main staircase, with an entrance door on each side of it, is a hall, which measures 70-ft. by 36-ft., and is capable of accommodating nearly 500 people. This hall will be available for lectures and literary, scientific, and musical purposes. Adjoining it there are ladies' and gentlemen's retiring-rooms, and a dwelling-house for the janitor. On the second floor there is a large upper hall and vestibule with dome. In the vestibule there is plenty of room for placing statuary, &c. To the right is the north museum, which has a floor space of 1,750 sq. ft., and on the left is the south museum, with a floor area of 2,000 sq. ft. The museums are lighted both from the walls and the roof, so that the collections may be inspected under the most advantageous circumstances.

MR. W. H. **Bagguley**, Sub-Librarian of West Ham, has been appointed Chief Librarian to the Lewisham Borough Council.

AT the last meeting of the **Marylebone** Borough Council, Mr. Straus, L.C.C., moved, and Alderman T. H. Brooke-Hitching seconded, that the Public Libraries' Act, 1892, be adopted for the borough. After a long discussion the motion was lost, on a division, by thirty-eight to twenty.

THE first number of "The Library Record of Australasia, the official organ of the Library Association of Australasia," for April, 1901, has just been issued, and will be continued quarterly, if supported in a

sufficiently generous manner. The "Record" will only be supplied to members of the Association, and the annual subscription is 10s. We cordially welcome this latest addition to library journalism, and hope it will have a long and distinguished career. The contents of the first number are promising, and if the contribution difficulty can be met, the "Record" should become a valuable and interesting magazine. Among the contents of the present part may be mentioned a series of "Library Notes," from the various colonies; an historical note on "Australia's First Library"; "Hints on Bookbinding"; "Australasian Library Statistics"; "Small Country Libraries"; "The Dewey Decimal System for small Libraries"; "Books of 1900, arranged according to Dewey"; and a Quarterly List of New Books.



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LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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NORTHERN COUNTIES LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE next meeting of the above Association will be held at Sunderland, on Wednesday, June 26th, and all who intend to be present should notify the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. W. C. Purvis, Public Library, Workington, not later than June 18th, 1901.

All persons interested in library work, not necessarily members of the Library Association, or any branches of the said Association are invited to attend, and any person desirous of becoming a member should forward their names as early as possible.

Two papers will be read and discussed. Questions on practical subjects are invited, notice of which should be sent a week before the date of meeting.

Tea will be provided, and the evening will be taken up with a musical entertainment.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made to hold a Summer School for Library Work in connection with the above Association, consisting of six sessions, occupying three days, viz:—Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, June 4th, 5th, and 6th, 1901, at the Council House, Birmingham (by kind permission of the Lord Mayor). Lectures directly bearing on library work will be delivered, and libraries and other places of interest visited. The hours of attendance will be so arranged as to enable the students to return to their libraries each evening. An entrance fee of 2s. 6d. (payable in advance) will be charged, but only those who are actually engaged in library work will be admitted. Students intending to join the School must inform the Hon. Secretary, and forward their fees, before May 31st. No examination will be held, but each student will be expected to send to the Committee a report of the lectures. Students who may be unable to be present at all the lectures will be expected to send in reports of those which they attend. Prizes are offered for the best and second best set of reports, and Certificates will be given to all who send satisfactory reports. Appended is a list of the lectures to be given. Further information will be forwarded to those who inform the Hon. Secretary of their intention to attend the meetings. The success of the Summer Schools held at Manchester and Liverpool encourages the Committee to appeal for the co-operation of all library authorities in the Midland Counties in this effort to benefit those engaged in library work, by granting permission to their assistants to attend the meetings.

LECTURES.

- MR. HOWARD S. PEARSON ... Introductory Address
 MR. A. CAPEL SHAW ... Library Arrangements.
(Chief Librarian, Birmingham Free Public Libraries.)
 MR. W. SALT BRASSINGTON, F.S.A., Historic Bookbindings.
(Librarian, Shakespeare Memorial Library, Stratford-on-Avon.)
 *. There will be a practical demonstration of Bookbinding at this Lecture.
 MR. ROBERT K. DENT ... { Catalogues and Cataloguing.
(Librarian, Aston Manor P. Library) { Aids for Readers.
 MR. JOHN ELLIOT ... Indicators and other Charging Systems.
(Chief Librarian, Wolverhampton Free Public Libraries.)
 MR. THOMAS DUCKWORTH ... Open Access.
(Chief Librarian, Worcester Free Public Library.)

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE Programme of the Twenty-third Annual Meeting, to be held at Waukesha, Wisconsin, has just been issued. Heretofore the programmes of the A.L.A. have been largely devoted to the presentation of technical papers, many of an elementary character. A marked change has been made in this year's programme, for the general sessions will be almost wholly devoted to a broad treatment of library problems, the literary or bookish side being emphasized. Technical matters are relegated to the sectional meetings and "round tables." Thus the opening meeting of the Twentieth century will mark an epoch in the history of the A. L. A., as it does the increase in active membership to a total of over 1,000.

OUTLINE OF PROGRAMME.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3RD, arrival date.

Evening, 8.30-10.0 : Introductory session ; Address of welcome and response ; Friendly greetings.

THURSDAY, JULY 4TH.

Morning, 9.0-12.0 : Meeting of Council ; 12.30, Council's annual breakfast.

Afternoon, 2.30-6.0 : Reunions of library associations (sectional, state and local).

Evening, 8.0-10.0 ; Public meeting ; President's address. Papers—What may be done for libraries : 1, By the city ; 2, By the state ; 3, By the nation.

FRIDAY, JULY 5TH.

Morning, 10.0-12.30 : General session. Reports of officers ; committees, &c. ; Miscellaneous business.

Afternoon, 2.0-5.30 : Simultaneous meetings. State librarian's association, first session ; Children's librarians' section, first session.

Evening, 8.0-10.0 ; Simultaneous meetings. State librarians' association, second session ; Reunion of library schools' alumni.

SATURDAY, JULY 6TH.

Morning, 10.0-12.30 : General session ; Reports ; Miscellaneous business ; Special papers, &c.

Afternoon, 2.0-5.50 : Simultaneous meetings. Trustees' section ; College and reference library section ; Children's librarians' section, second session.

Evening, 7.30-8.30 : Committee meetings : 8.30, Programme in charge of Committee on entertainment.

SUNDAY, JULY 7TH.

MONDAY, JULY 8TH, MADISON DAY.

Morning. Early breakfast, special train for Madison. Carriage trip; luncheon at University Gymnasium.

Afternoon : At Madison. Inspection of new State Historical Society Building. Papers—*a*. From the readers' point of view ; *b*. European and American library characteristics.

Evening : At Waukesha, informal social.

TUESDAY, JULY 9TH.

Morning 10.0–12.30 : General session. Papers—Book copyright ; Book importation ; Trusteeship of literature ; Relation of publishers, booksellers, and librarians.

Afternoon. 2.0–5.30 : Simultaneous meetings. Round table ; the work of state library commissions, including Travelling libraries ; Catalogue section.

Evening, 7.30 : Council meeting. Elementary institute—*a*, 8.0–8.30 ; *b*, 8.30–9.0 ; *c*, 9.0–9.30.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10TH.

Morning, 10.0–12.30 : Simultaneous meetings. Round tables, *a*. The work of State library associations and Womens' clubs in advancing library interests ; *b*. Professional instruction in bibliography.

Evening : Leave Waukesha for, *a*. Library inspection tour ; *b*. N. E. A. Library department sessions at Detroit ; *c*. Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo.

THURSDAY, JULY 11TH, AT DETROIT.

Library department National Educational Association.

First session at 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 12TH.

Second session N. E. A. Library department.

TUESDAY, JULY 16TH, AT WAUKESHA.

Final adjournment.



NORTH MIDLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

ON April 18th, the Forty-first Meeting of this Association, was held at the Leicester Public Library, when there was a good representative gathering of members from the counties of Leicester, Derby, Nottingham, Lincoln, and Northampton. Mr. W. Crowther, Borough Librarian of Derby, and President of the N.M.L.A., occupied the chair. After the reading and confirmation of the minutes of the Derby meeting held in February, Mr. Crowther congratulated Mr. H. Bond, City Librarian of Lincoln, on his appointment as first Chief Librarian of the Borough of Woolwich, and reported upon his attendance at the opening ceremony of the Carlton Road Reading Rooms, Nottingham, of which he spoke in high terms. Mr. Smith, of the Leicester Public Library, was elected to membership. The President then gave some biographical particulars of the author of the "Ingoldsby Legends," presented some criticisms upon the literary work of the author, and read several representative passages from the work just cited. Having to leave at this juncture, the chair was taken by Mr. Kirkby, one of the past presidents, and Public Librarian of Leicester. The Honorary Secretary, Mr. J. Potter Briscoe, then reported upon the

proceedings at a monthly meeting of the Library Association at Darlington, over which he presided, and on the formation of a district association, largely upon the lines of the North Midland Library Association. It was decided to have the annual excursion in June, at Sherwood Forest. An interesting and practical discussion on "Binding Materials" was introduced by Mr. Russell, bookbinder, of Leicester. Mr. Briscoe contributed a short paper on "Addison and Steele." The collection of Baskerville-printed works, recently presented to the Leicester Library by Mr. J. M. Gimson, was exhibited by the librarian, and examined with great interest. This meeting lasted nearly three hours. The members assembled at the quaint Old Town Library, where some of the typographical treasures had been laid out by the lady librarian. Other parts of this old-world building, with its interesting association, were visited by the members. The company then proceeded by tram to the Corporation Gas and Electricity Works, where they were most courteously received by Mr. Colson, who personally conducted the party through the whole of the works, and entertained the company to tea in the handsome recreation-room.



THE PSEUDONYMS.

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AFTER dinner, the "Antiquary," as chairman of the meeting, announced in a casual sort of way, that he would open a discussion on Open Access by calling upon the "Christian" to state his views upon the subject.

CHRISTIAN—"But, Mr. Chairman, it is usual for the gentleman presiding to give us a lead by stating his own views."

ANTIQUARY—"Go on, and none of your nonsense. My views are well enough known; yours are not, and we are all anxious to hear them."

CHRISTIAN—"I protest!"—

ANTIQUARY—"My dear Christian, if you do not immediately proceed with your remarks when called upon, I shall cast a damper upon you as provided by Rule 596 of the Club." [Raising his voice] "Waiter, fetch a large syphon of soda-water."

CHRISTIAN—"All right, all right, no hurry! Well, gentlemen, I cordially agree with our worthy chairman in regarding Open Access to Public Libraries as the chief blight which fell upon librarianship in the last decade of the nineteenth century. It threatens to spread during the twentieth century like some devastating epidemic, upsetting, changing, and destroying everything it touches. It is a system of the most revolutionary and dangerous description, evolved for the sole purpose of feeding the vanity of its promoters, by bringing them prominently under the public eye. For my part I should much rather see

them uplifted upon the public toe, and sent about their proper business. For every dangerous or poisonous disease strong antiseptic treatment is necessary, and for Open Abscess, which is the correct spelling of this fad, vigorous repressive measures are essential, including in my humble judgment, five years' quarantine on a desert island."

ROB ROY—"There cannot be the slightest doubt that the chief factor in this Open Access craze is a strong desire for self-advertisement and notoriety on the part of its leading exponents. One could tolerate any new system which was at least as good as the old one which it proposed to supplant, but this is a case in which the asserted cure is ten times worse than the disease. For over fifty years the people of Great Britain and Ireland have been happily and profitably engaged in the pleasant task of choosing books for home-reading in the only rational way, by means of catalogues and Indicators, and intelligent use of the library staff. Nothing new has transpired which calls for a drastic change of this nature, and I am not aware that the people of Manchester are worse off with their Indicators—"

MANCHESTER MAN—"They don't use Indicators in Manchester."

ROB ROY—"Well, Birmingham—"

EGOIST—"They are not used there either, save in a very small way at the Central Library."

ROB ROY—"Well, as I was saying, the people of Liverpool—"

MANCHESTER MAN—"They don't have Indicators."

ROB ROY—"Surely some large city uses the Indicator?"

EOTHEN—"Try Leeds."

ROB ROY—"Yes, Leeds. At Leeds, the readers are no worse off as regards service and satisfactory selection with the Indicator, than they are with Open Access at West Ham—"

OMNES—"They have no Open Access there."

ROB ROY—"What! no Open Access at West Ham? Then what has all this fuss been about? Mr. Chairman, I'll look this subject up a little more before speaking further."

DOG FIEND—"Hear, hear."

ADMIRAL—"I was going to say that Open Access is quite harmless if treated in the right way. You have only to ignore it, and it will die a natural death. Keep on hammering away at it, as has foolishly been done in the past, and you will simply weld it into a weapon of tremendous power. Leave it alone, and it will become flabby, tame, and sputter out in a few ineffectual efforts at revival."

SCALLYWAG—"I should like to ask what this Open Access is. Is it a disease, or a library method, and if a library method, who has tried it, and can give us some kind of accurate idea of what the system really is? I was always under the impression that Open Access was something like a 'Help Yourself' luncheon bar, at which you help yourself and pay as you go out, or pay rather in proportion to your feeling of satisfaction and sense of honesty. But, perhaps, someone here has really tried this system and can speak by the book, instead of on mere prejudice and ignorance."

CHRISTIAN and ROB ROY—"Order, order."

BOSCOBEL—"I should like to speak up in favour of Open Access, as one who has had practical experience of its working in a large library for some years. My own observation is that the loudest denouncers of the system are those who are most ignorant of the very meaning of the term; the unwise judges who decide without evidence; and the solemn *quid nuncs* who potter about carrying false news, because they have no ideas of their own to impart. The question of Open Access in Public Libraries divides itself into two main parts, the ethical and the mechanical, and round both of these, a complete sea of ink has been spilled in this country and in the United States. The moral side of the question may be summed up in the one word 'Losses,' and may be dismissed as promptly by the explanation that, where proper classification and mechanical checks are imposed, the losses from large libraries, which have been worked on safe-guarded principles for six years, and over, amount only to a few volumes per annum. The mechanical side concerns the means of overcoming difficulties connected with finding books, misplacements, and so on, and it may be stated that, as improved methods are evolved by experience, so do the difficulties of a merely mechanical kind disappear. The policy of Open Access is solely concerned with the improvement of Public Libraries, considered as educational machines, and the whole aim of the system is to popularise our libraries and increase their usefulness to the public. The question of this, that, or the other piece of library furniture does not enter into the matter at all, and has only been thrust into the forefront of the question because of mistaken opinions as to the true tendency of the method."

PROFESSOR—"My original attitude towards Open Access was one of polite hostility, tempered by a vague disbelief as to its real value to the majority of Public Library readers. I have since come to the conclusion that, for the non-fictional sections of a Public Library, there are points of undoubted promise about the method, and I have resolved to give my opinion concrete form by trying a modified plan of Open Access for non-fictional books when I re-organise my library."

ANTIQUARY—"The Christian was good enough, in his own ironical manner, to pretend to agree with what he called my sentiments towards the Open Access question, knowing, I have no doubt, that I hold the strongest opinions in opposition to himself. As one of the earliest pioneers of rational Open Access, I claim the right to speak most favourably of the system, both as regards its genuine success when properly organised, and its immense influence in stirring up the right Public Library spirit, both in this country and America. No new system is perfect to begin with. It must go through a process of evolution and improvement, and this the safe-guarded plan of Open Access is most successfully doing. There is Open Access *and* Open Access, one being the elementary, unorganised, and unscientific system from which the opposition draw their "horrible examples" of failure, and the other the method in which an attempt is made, by mechanical and other scientific means, to overcome the difficulties and possible dangers arising from the fresh conditions created. These two methods

can no more be fairly compared than can the tractive power of a lame donkey and a modern locomotive."

DOG FIEND—"If anyone of a reflective turn of mind will just consider the slow, but steady, growth of rational Open Access in various parts of the world, he will be convinced that the old lines of library policy are on the eve of a great revolution. It is impossible to ignore the fact that most of the old and cherished methods of the original school of Public Librarians, are being gradually supplanted by more advanced methods. It is perfectly natural and logical that library management should develop and not stagnate, and that it should be subject to the same changes which affect everything else in the world. The systems of twenty years ago are no longer suitable for our present-day needs and ideas, and, therefore, they should be abandoned without remorse or heartburning. The day may come when some method of thought transmission, and its appropriate mechanical method of record, may completely dispense with Public Libraries, and when that time comes we will all laugh at the efforts of present-day librarians to stem the rising tide of progress, not only as regards Open Access, but in regard to any proposal to depart from the good old ways of 1860."

HE THAT WILL NOT WHEN HE MAY—"I'm not quite sure if some of the members of this Club don't take themselves too seriously. Open Access isn't the sole aim and end of life, or even of librarianship, and for my part, I don't think most of us really know what it is. I, therefore, move that we adjourn the debate until it is definitely ascertained whether Open Access is a library method or a disease."

AGREED.



CORRESPONDENCE.

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MR. J. D. BROWN ON THE LATE PROF. DE MORGAN.

SIR,—In a recent number of the *Library World*, Mr. J. D. Brown adopts the late Prof. De Morgan as the type of certain people whom he describes as "unprogressive" and "selfish," because they think that special bibliographies make the compilation of a Subject-Index* to the General Catalogue of the British Museum unnecessary. This may or may not be so, but can De Morgan be regarded as their "type"?

It is now more than fifty years since De Morgan expressed his views, and if they are a little behind the present time we need not be surprised. He was not only a learned mathematician, but was also acquainted with cataloguing and classification, and compilers of annotated lists may learn a great deal from him. He recognised the great difficulties of classification which seem to be admitted even by the authors of systematic classification; for, if there is a satisfactory system

extant, why add another? De Morgan did not neglect classed catalogues; he made use of them and found them useful. But when the question was:—Since there can ONLY be either a classed catalogue OR an alphabetical one of the books in the British Museum, De Morgan considered that there would be so many uses sacrificed, and so many causes of error introduced, that, speaking of a classed catalogue, as against an alphabetical one, he had no hesitation whatever in giving his voice in favour of an alphabetical catalogue; *but if an alphabetical catalogue having been published, the nation would wish to publish a classed catalogue, for those who might wish to use it, he would have no objection to that.*

Finally, De Morgan was in favour of the distribution of the printed Museum Catalogue among provincial libraries, &c., and of the appointment of an officer at the Museum whose duty would be to give information on literary matters to enquirers far and wide on the payment of a small fee. This surely is not typical of people who desire to preserve the Museum as “a browsing place for a few selfish students!”

Yours faithfully,

E. GUNTHORPE.

MUSEUMS—LOCAL OR EDUCATIONAL?

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.

DEAR SIR,

Just a word in reply to your editorial comment on the Redruth Museum. It is very far from our intention to make our new museum a mere receptacle for odds and ends; so far from it, indeed, as to be diametrically opposed to the scheme we wish to develop. I do not see the necessity for a museum of mere local curiosities, but I am keenly alive to the need that exists for a museum of type collections to illustrate geology and natural history especially, and that is what I wish to see started. Both the big snake skin and the scorpion will serve very well as illustrations of types of animal life, although, of course, a stuffed snake would be a more effective representation than the empty skin.

I hope to arrange one section of the museum on the excellent space-for-time method of the Educational Museum at Haslemere. Of course, in inviting donations of specimens from the general public, one lays one's self open to the possibility of receiving some things that are of not much use, but it would be very poor policy to refuse or make light of these, as at the worst they can be exchanged for others more useful; and even this would very seldom be necessary, as they could always be lumped together in a curio case, which could do no harm to anyone. The majority of presented specimens, however, are of a nature which readily admits of their being worked into an educational series of great value. Well-written labels, conveying in untechnical

language a clear idea of the history of the specimens and their places in the museum scheme, are of more importance and utility than a great crowd of articles, described barely, or in such unfamiliar words as to be not understandable of the ordinary working man. Common specimens are often as useful as rare ones; any sea beach will supply sufficient to keep a clever scientist busy for days arranging and describing them, and such a collection would teach a thoughtful man as much nature-knowledge as he would get from a ramble through a whole museum of grand and striking specimens poorly arranged and described. Our ultimate collection here may be far below this high ideal of a perfectly-described museum; but that, at least, is our aim, however far short of it we fall.

WILLIAM G. HALE.

Redruth, April 15th.



EDITORIAL.

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THE completion of our third volume is an appropriate occasion on which to make a few remarks on the progress and conduct of the *Library World*. Started in a humble way in July, 1898, with the object of affording librarians and others an independent medium for intercommunication, it has remained since that time the only library magazine, with one exception, which is not either the organ of some society, or representative of some particular interest. The endeavour of the management throughout has been to give every side a fair hearing, and to keep the journal entirely free from trade or other influences. That both these objects have been well secured, anyone can ascertain by merely glancing over the pages of the three completed volumes. In the past every effort has been made to select topics for our articles which have practical interest for librarians, and in this way a very large area of the ground covered by the technical side of librarianship has been occupied. Still, there are plenty of other departments of library science to be adequately discussed, and we invite librarians of every shade of opinion to contribute articles embodying their opinions to our columns. It is one of the chief difficulties of professional journalism to obtain a constant and fresh supply of interesting matter, and, when this is complicated by the impossibility of giving remuneration, it is often very hard to maintain a high standard. In the coming year, 1901-1902, we hope to introduce several new features, and to develop some of the older features which have contributed to make the *Library World* not only the most popular, but the most frequently quoted, library journal in existence.



